



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

OIC Information Ministers Hold Media Conference

OIC Secretary General Arrives

JN2205071795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], arrived in Damascus yesterday evening to attend the third OIC information ministers' conference. He was welcomed on arrival at Damascus International Airport by Minister of Information Dr. Muhammad Salman, Assistant Information Minister Adib Ghanam, and several officials of the Ministry of Information.

In a statement to the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, Algabid thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria for hosting the conference in Damascus. He added that the conference will discuss issues related to the media and media organizations and several programs pursued by OIC members. He went on to say that the conference will also take up future media plans of OIC members, the exchange of media programs and activities among OIC members, and promoting the true image of Islam.

Algabid said: We will benefit from the wisdom of President al-Asad with regard to the approaches that the media of OIC members should follow.

The meetings of senior media officials of OIC members are scheduled to resume at the Umayyad Conference Hall this morning. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Delegation Arrives

JN2105162795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegations participating in the third Islamic information ministers conference continued to arrive in Damascus today.

An Iraqi delegation led by Nuri al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry, arrived in Damascus this morning. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Adib Ghanam, assistant information minister, and senior Information Ministry officials.

A Lebanese delegation led by Muhammad 'Ubayd, director general of the Information Ministry, arrived in Damascus this morning. He was welcomed at the Syrian-Lebanese border by senior Information Ministry officials.

Syria's al-Zu'bi Addresses Conference

JN2405163895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of His Excellency [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad, the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Ministers of Information Third Conference was inaugurated at the Umayyad Conferences Palace at 1100 [0800 GMT] today. [Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi deputized for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session. The inauguration was attended by Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the OIC, and Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister and president of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, representative of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, delivered a speech on behalf of the conference's sponsor. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi said: Following the collapse of old balances, the world's economic resources have become subject to the will of an almost single world power.

He added: Absence of political, economic, and cultural cooperation among Islamic countries and lack of cooperation vis-a-vis the countries that threaten the Islamic countries' development and attainment of freedom will weaken and isolate them and facilitate putting them under control.

He called on Arab and Muslims to shoulder their responsibilities in addressing their own issues and regional causes, external dangers, and international ambitions targeting them. He also urged them to draw up development, social, and economic plans to keep abreast with world progress.

Al-Zu'bi said: We, in Syria, realize that Tel Aviv's allies and friends put Israel's interest in the first place and always work for making it the strongest in the areas of economy and possession of conventional weapons. These have supported Israel's abstention from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. They gave a blind eye to Israel's abstention [from signing the NPT] and applied pressure on other countries to sign the NPT. This provides hard evidence of the biased and collusive policies which seek to keep Israel the only nuclear power in the region, posing constant nuclear threats to the Arab homeland and the Islamic world.

Al-Zu'bi added: Now we are witnessing a conspiracy, which is being carried out on a phased basis, to make the city of Jerusalem a capital of Israel, heedless of international resolutions regarding it, the national sovereignty of the Palestinian people, the pan-Arab

right of Arabs, or the Islamic and Christian public opinions, which are attached to Jerusalem by a sacred religious bond. Continuation of settlement activity and confiscation of lands in a manner that shows absolute disregard for the peace process, Arabs, and Muslims exposes the expansionist Zionist goals.

He added: Regrettably, the international community seems to be saddled and unable to do anything toward this issue. Since the creation of Israel, Syria has been keen on addressing this issue through a unified Arab and Islamic stand. Syria has always been eager not to divide the pan-Arab cause or to have it dealt with by each country on its own or unilaterally.

On the peace process, al-Zu'bi said: Syria's favorable response to the U.S. initiative, which called for holding talks to establish peace in the region, and participation in the talks that began in Madrid stemmed from its belief that peace in this region would not be genuine unless it was just, comprehensive, and based on UN resolutions pertinent to the Arab-Israel conflict, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, in addition to Resolution 425 calling for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from occupied southern Lebanon.

He added: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad had stressed in many speeches and statements that Syria will not relinquish an inch of land and that there are two basic things that should not be violated; namely, dignity and land. The land-for-peace principle means Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian Golan and the rest of occupied Arab lands to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Al-Zu'bi highlighted the obstacles placed by Israel before the peace process. He said: The United States of America had time and again acknowledged Syria's positive positions which prove its sincere intentions toward the process of just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman, head of the Third Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, delivered a speech at the inaugural ceremony at the beginning of which he welcomed the brother ministers, chief delegates, and members of the delegations to the conference. [passage omitted]

Dr. Salman said: We are all bound together by the holy Koran, with which God has endowed us, and by the values of right, justice, and shura [consultation], defending the causes of our peoples and peoples of the world, who have the right to live free and safe, away from injustice, aggression, and all forms of hegemony. [passage omitted]

The information minister said: As we emphasize the importance of the intrinsic power of the Arabs and

Muslims, our goal is to deal with international powers openly and positively on the basis of respect for our sovereignty and values and for our people's national and personal identity. He noted that Islam is an impregnable wall defending this identity against all challenges posed to it.

Noting the Israeli practices in holy Jerusalem and the occupied territories, the information minister said: Holy Jerusalem, whose al-Aqsa Mosque had once been set ablaze, is being swallowed up as a land and an identity. Excavations aiming to demolish the foundations of the mosque are continuing with a view to removing this mosque from history and memory. Israel is avoiding the requirements of peace under flimsy security pretexts, trying to achieve territorial gains contravening international resolutions and the U.S. initiative in accordance with which the peace process was launched. He said: We want our territory back to the 4 June 1967 border and Lebanon to restore its occupied territory.

Talking about the attempts to besiege, distort, and level false charges against Islam, the minister said: Vis-a-vis this situation, we urge the brother Arabs and Muslims to be aware of the dangers posed to them and to cooperate fruitfully to defend themselves and their homelands and dignity. Before anything else, we urge them to renounce all that would blur their sound vision of their future or curb their ability to overcome their difficulties. This would be by developing a strategic, realistic position proceeding from keenness to protect their interests and to deal with international powers in accordance with principles that entrench them as a force that cannot be ignored. Only this would reverse the current situation, where Muslims are ignored concerning many Islamic issues, such as Jerusalem, the occupied territories, the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Within the same vein, Islam is being wrongly accused as being a factor of international instability.

Dr. Salman said: First, the Islamic house must be bolstered to provide the required factors for developing an effective Islamic stand. Proceeding from this basic principle, we are dutybound to entrench our Islamic values in our lives in a manner that serves our people's aspirations for development and economic, social, spiritual, and cultural progress. He said that this will support the common denominators among the OIC countries and activate their role in defending Islamic issues and confronting the challenges posed by the international situation. He said: Honest adherence to the principle of Islamic unity provides a solid basis for political and media action to support our rights, explain the good and human reality of Islam, and expose the tendentious and

false charges against Islam's values and tolerant teachings. [passage omitted]

Syria's Salman Holds News Conference

JN2505172495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman, chairman of the Third Conference of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Ministers of Information, held a news conference at the conference hall at Umayyad Palace following the conclusion of the OIC conference today.

Attending the news conference were Arab and foreign news agency correspondents, world television networks, and a number of Syrian and Lebanese journalists.

At the outset of the conference, Dr. Salman said that the conference issued a media statement and a final statement which included resolutions and recommendations issued by the conference.

Answering a question on the most important activities of the conference, the information minister said: The most important of these activities was the approval of the media strategy of the Islamic states' information ministers, and the setting of mechanisms to implement this strategy. This strategy is not confined to the political aspect, but there are also cultural, developmental, and social aspects.

On the mechanism of implementing the strategy of the conference, and whether its implementation is binding, the minister said: All the resolutions issued by the conference are binding, available resources permitting. There is a general approach to support Islamic media institutions.

On the holy Jerusalem issue and the actions to Judaize the city, Dr. Salman said: Holy Jerusalem was the focus of attention of the conferees. All speakers dealt with the Jerusalem issue, its importance, and the need to safeguard its identity and heritage.

On correcting the image of Islam in the Western media, Dr. Salman said: Some sides try to distort Islam. The more we were able to reach others to explain our ideas to them the more effective our role will be in this world. The world situation constitutes a conflict among cultures. At present, as Islamic states, we believe that there challenges which are basically cultural. This is why we spoke about cultural invasion, hostility to the Islamic thought, the attempts to distort it, and the need to confront these tendentious ideas. This cannot be achieved unless we clarify our ideas, values, and our Islamic heritage which is devoted to serving mankind.

Responding to a question on whether the Damascus conference has achieved the necessary harmony between the positions of the Islamic states, the information minister said: The conference has issued the Damascus media statement, which contains 13 resolutions that were unanimously adopted. This means that the conference was harmonious and collective regarding the topics it tackled, particularly the commitment to implementing future media strategy.

The conference highly valued Syria's positions toward the peace process and expressed its support for the Syrian position, which calls for regaining the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 line, as well as the occupied Lebanese and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

Asked about promoting media relations among the Islamic states, the minister said that a clear-cut vision was crystallized for enhancing relations among the Islamic states and reinforcing the Islamic media institutions in order to reach bilateral agreements by promoting media institutions, the Islamic television, the Islamic radios federation, and the Islamic journalists federation.

Responding to another question on the absence of differences in views, which often occur at major conferences such as this one, the minister said: The problems from which Islam and the Muslims are suffering everywhere in this age are similar, and that accusations against Islam from time to time of creating instability in the international community have generated the feeling of solidarity, produced identical views, and led to unanimity at the conference. Therefore, they adopted clear thoughts and visions to draw up a strategy and unified concepts. This made every one ignore some bilateral sensitivities and peripheral differences that we hope will vanish soon.

Salman on Security Understanding With Israel

JN2505130895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first official Syrian reaction to the U.S. Department of State's announcement that Syria and Israel have reached an understanding on security arrangements, Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has affirmed that an agreement has been reached on the initial principles of the security arrangements. In the near future, he added, specialized, technical military committees will meet to discuss this issue. Salman, however, did not define the level of the committees, which will be in line with the size of work, as he put it.

Minister Salman added: Gaps still exist and much work is needed to narrow these gaps. At the news conference he held at the end of the third conference of the information ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Muhammad Salman said: Syria welcomes any positive initiatives that will give momentum to the peace process. He said the ideas were not directly exchanged between the Israelis and Syrians, but were always exchanged through the U.S. sponsor.

Iranian Minister Holds News Conference

*LD2505174895 Tehran IRNA in English
1444 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, May 25, IRNA — Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim, said in Damascus on Thursday [25 May] that the Islamic states should demonstrate a correct feature of Islam and Muslims to the world. Speaking in a press conference at the venue of the ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Mirsalim said if the Islamic propagation was carried out properly, the allegations of enemies of Islam would be proved null and void.

Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance said the enemies have introduced a distorted face of Islam. Islam advocates justice, but, the enemies allege quite the opposite, Mirsalim said.

The 52-member nation organization of the Islamic conference held the two-day ministerial meeting to adopt a common strategy on the Islamic propagation. Mirsalim said in the press conference that the Islamic Republic of Iran is keen on justice and righteousness.

In reference to the U.S. propaganda campaign against Iran, Mirsalim said Iran has already proved baselessness of allegations of the west against Iran. The global arrogance is frustrated by its defeat in its military, economic conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said. The Iranian minister said the west should shift its policy towards Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran and acquaint itself with the characteristics of the Islamic cause. The OIC ministers of the Islamic propagation are due to wind up their two-day meeting later today.

'Damascus Media Statement' Issued

*JN2505150195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 95*

["Text" of the "Damascus media statement" issued at the end of the Third Conference of the OIC Ministers

of Information in Damascus on 25 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Third Conference of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Ministers of Information held in Damascus on 25-26 Dhu al-Hijjah 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 24-25 May 1995, out of commitment to what was issued by the seventh OIC summit that was held in Casablanca, Morocco on 8-9 Rajab 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 10-11 December 1994 — which was held at an important time characterized by big international developments and changes on the political, economic, social, cultural, and media levels — and out of its conviction of the great role of the media and their growing responsibilities toward serving and defending Islamic peoples' issues, particularly in light of the big developments in modern media technology:

1. Stresses the need for the Islamic media to highlight Islamic solidarity to defend Islamic political, economic, cultural, and media issues. It also stresses its commitment to promoting cooperation and coordination among the member states in the fields of print and electronic media.
2. Encourages the promotion of cooperation among the Islamic states for the sake of upgrading the capabilities and performance of their media institutions and organs, and to make them cope with the technical developments in the communications field, particularly at the age of satellite, direct transmission, and the external media invasion, in order to enable them to play their role whether in the field of supporting the economic and social development plans, or in the fields of dissemination of knowledge and enlightenment, as well as the presentation and defense of Islamic issues.
3. Encourages the Islamic media to confront the unjust campaign aimed at distorting the image of Islam and Muslims abroad, through highlighting the tolerant principles and values of Islam, which advocate peace and equality among individuals and peoples, and justice and respect for international charters and conventions; as well as explaining Islam's contribution to human civilization in all fields of science and knowledge in the past and at present.
4. Calls, along with the international community, for the establishment of balanced media relations through the objective presentation of the international problems without discrimination, based on dialogue, cooperation, respect for the international legitimacy, and avoiding selectivity and double standards.
5. Reiterates commitment to dialogue and cooperation, and compliance with the principles of international law

and legitimacy, and the UN resolutions, as a means to resolve all international issues and problems and to achieve peace and stability in the world.

6. Announces its strong denunciation of terrorism and all forms of terrorist actions and practices regardless of their sources, causes, and purposes. It also expresses its commitment to combating terrorism, and calls for setting international standards to distinguish between terrorism and peoples' right to struggle against occupation and for self-determination and independence.

7. Stresses its support for the Middle East peace process to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that will lead to a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem; from the occupied Syrian territories to the 4 June 1967 lines; and from the occupied Lebanese territories in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land for peace principle.

8. Calls on the international community to obligate Israel to renounce nuclear armament, join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and open all its nuclear installations to inspection and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency. These steps are necessary to make the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which are nuclear weapons.

9. Strongly condemns the Israeli occupation authorities' ongoing oppressive practices, their violation of human rights and the Geneva agreements, and their confiscation of new territories in the holy city of Jerusalem for settlement purposes.

10. Urges all countries to abide by Security Council Resolution No. 478 of 1980, which calls on the UN member states not to transfer their diplomatic missions to the holy city of Jerusalem. It also stresses that any violation of that resolution will conflict with the bases of the peace process.

11. Stresses the Islamic media's commitment to the resolutions of the seventh Islamic conference convened in Casablanca to discuss the issues of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, Iraq, Kuwait, Somalia, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jamu and Kashmir, Azerbaijan, and Iran.

12. Urges its Ministerial Follow-Up Committee to follow up the implementation of the resolutions issued by the conference and to define ways to achieve their goals. It also authorizes the committee to amend the media programs and projects in order to achieve the best results.

Finally, the conference highly appreciates the Syrian leadership's wisdom and its firm position toward the

fated Arab and Islamic causes. It also stresses its support for and solidarity with Syria in achieving a just and honorable peace that will regain the Arab right and achieve peace, good, and justice.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Lauds 'Progress' on Israeli-Syrian Track
JN2505121095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has said his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning and yesterday, as well as his talks with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, were all fruitful and constructive.

In statements upon his return home from the Egyptian capital, Cairo, a short while ago, President 'Arafat added that he held fruitful economic and trade talks with His Majesty King Husayn. 'Arafat met with King Husayn twice in Amman the day before yesterday. During the talks, they discussed the latest developments in the peace process. They also debated the Jerusalem issue, as well as other issues of common interest to the two sides.

President 'Arafat also met with Egyptian President Mubarak in Cairo. The talks addressed the latest political developments.

With regard to the progress made on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, President 'Arafat said: We applaud this progress. From the outset, we have said that our objective is to achieve a comprehensive and just peace on all tracks — the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

President 'Arafat is currently meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk at the Presidential Office in Gaza. The meeting is being attended on the Palestinian side by Health Minister Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun. For Russia, it is attended by the Russian ambassador in Tel Aviv.

PA Statement Notes Support

JN2605084595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0700 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority has welcomed the progress achieved recently on the Syrian-Israeli track. In a statement to the "Today's Events" program, which will be broadcast at 1400 [1100 GMT] today, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of

the Palestinian Authority [PA] chairmanship, said: We support the progress on the Syrian-Israeli track because it will also serve the Palestinian-Israeli peace track. He added:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Rahim recording] We had information that progress was being achieved despite the fact that the progress was slow. We have always called for achieving tangible progress on the Syrian track. Our stand has always been in support of our Syrian brothers in achieving a comprehensive peace in exchange for full withdrawal. We support any progress on the Syrian track and hope that these efforts will be crowned with full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territory, from the Golan, which was occupied in 1967, in exchange for comprehensive peace. Progress on any of the tracks will support the Palestinian track. This is our conviction, and consequently, we are keen to see this and to achieve this progress, which will help achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

'Arafat Briefs Russia's Posuvalyuk on Peace Talks

JN2505144995 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk at the Presidency in Gaza today.

He briefed the Russian official on the latest developments of the regional peace process in view of the current Israeli obstacles designed to hinder the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

President 'Arafat asked Posuvalyuk to convey a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The message deals with the latest developments, and it requests President Yeltsin to play his role as a co-sponsor of the peace process.

President 'Arafat returned home from Egypt at noon today. While in Cairo, he held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latest developments of the peace process.

Further on 'Arafat-Posuvalyuk Meeting

JN2505184595 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1730 GMT 25 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk and his delegation at the Presidency in Gaza today. Talks centered on the latest events and political developments.

Following the meeting, the Voice of Palestine asked President 'Arafat to evaluate the meeting:

[Begin recording] [al-Za'nun] Mr. President, how do you evaluate your meeting with Mr. Posuvalyuk?

['Arafat] Fruitful, positive, and constructive. We are proud of the strong Palestinian-Russian friendship which is very old. A joint Palestinian-Russian committee always meets. This visit is within the continuous contacts and consultations between us. I asked gave him an important message to President Yeltsin on conditions in our region, including the peace process and the implementation of the agreement reached between us and Israel. [end recording]

For his part, the Russian deputy foreign minister said that as a cosponsor of the peace process, his country is eager to protect the peace march and to speed up moves to implement what was agreed on. He said that he had carried an oral message from President Yeltsin to President 'Arafat and added that he discussed with 'Arafat bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

Posuvalyuk voiced his happiness and satisfaction with his meeting with President 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Opposed To Halting Autonomy Talks

JN2505113495 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1100 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, has asserted that halting the negotiations on the implementation of the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles would be in Israel's interest.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM weekly published today, al-Husayni indicated that Israel is attempting to circumvent the implementation of the accord. He added that the same does not hold true for the multilateral negotiations. He pointed out that through these negotiations, Israel seeks to expedite the process of normalization with the Arab states.

'Urayqat Comments on EU, Other Aid for Elections

MM2505144795 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic* 25 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of municipal and rural affairs and head of the Palestinian negotiating team on the Election Committee, by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels; date not given — first three paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian minister of municipal and rural affairs and head of the

Palestinian negotiating team on the Election Committee, who arrived in Brussels with Yo'el Zinger, legal adviser to the Israeli foreign minister, has held talks with Manuel Martin, deputy chairman of the European Commission, on the decision of the European Union [EU] to sponsor and finance the forthcoming Palestinian elections. The European Commission has confirmed that it received a joint Palestinian-Israeli request to sponsor and lead the monitoring of the Palestinian elections, which will be watched by observers from Japan, the United States, Norway, Egypt, and Jordan.

The director of the office of the European Commission's deputy chairman has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the EU has agreed to contribute 5 million ECU's (\$6.5 million) to preparations for the Palestinian elections and \$13 million for the elections.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had the following interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat outside the office of the chairman of the European Commission:

[Al-Yahyawi] First of all, how did you receive the Rabin government's decision to suspend the expropriation of Palestinian land in the occupied territory?

[Urayqat] Actually, what we want is a cancellation of the [expropriation] decision because it was unnecessary. This step should be coupled with a declaration by the Rabin government fully stopping all settlement activities in Jerusalem and the West Bank. So, the decision must be canceled to give the peace process a chance, and the Israeli Government should also admit that the Jerusalem issue is subject to negotiation and that it should not take action such as land expropriation and settlement because that would sooner or later destroy the peace process. We hope that the decision will be fully and categorically revoked because it was illegal and immoral. We now hope that Rabin will courageously declare that Jerusalem will be subject to negotiation as agreed in the Declaration of Principles.

[Al-Yahyawi] What agreement did you reach with the EU regarding the Palestinian elections?

[Urayqat] From the start we agreed with Europe on a partnership in the preparation for the elections. As the Palestinian side, we decided that Europe should head the observer committee and coordinate the international observer teams. We need Israeli assistance in some matters such as the entry through Israeli ports of vehicles and suitable communication equipment for the elections. At the meeting here in Brussels with Manuel Martin we extended an official invitation to the EU on behalf of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and President 'Arafat, and we asked Europe to supervise all the international observer teams representing the United

Nations, Japan, Norway, Egypt, the United States, and Jordan. Europe will be the umbrella for all these states. Israel has also today promised to meet all Europe's requirements.

[Al-Yahyawi] Is there a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the redeployment of Israeli forces before the elections?

[Urayqat] What we seek is an interim redeployment agreement, revision of laws, and transfer of power and of security and economic affairs. There can be no agreement on the elections in isolation from the other issues. Mid-June is our target for signing a phased agreement. There will be no elections unless Israel redeploys its forces and unless these forces are replaced in the West Bank by Palestinian forces.

[Al-Yahyawi] Is there an approximate date for the Palestinian elections?

[Urayqat] We will need 60 days after the signing of the interim agreement. That will include announcement of electoral lists, areas, and announcement of candidates and election procedures, and then 22 days will be allocated for advertising and the election campaign, followed by the elections themselves.

If the interim agreement is signed 1 July 1995 we would be ready to hold the elections 1 September.

Hamas Sees Suspension of Confiscation as 'Evasion'
MM2505132895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
25 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Considers Suspension of Confiscation Deception"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has said that the decision of Yitzhaq Rabin's government to suspend the confiscation of 53 hectares of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem is designed for "evasion and political deception." A statement issued by the movement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, said that the decision to suspend the confiscation is "an exposed attempt by Rabin to rescue his weak government from collapse and to absorb internal and external reactions. He has taken this formal and publicity decision to cover up the scores of Judaization and settlement-building operations continuing both secretly and openly in vast areas of Jerusalem and the West Bank."

The movement said that "the Zionist unanimity on Judaizing holy Jerusalem — with support from the United States — will cause Zionist bulldozers to continue to prey on and depopulate more parts of our usurped land with a view to imposing a fait accompli, considering

Jerusalem the eternal and unified capital of the usurpation state and perpetuating the legitimacy of occupation and settlement."

The statement went on: "While urging the masses of our people and the Arab and Islamic nation to keep the ember of the struggle against the occupation and its Judaization and settlement conspiracies ablaze, the

Islamic Resistance Movement stresses that our people's and nation's option will remain to insist on holy Jerusalem in full and to continue the jihad and struggle march in order to rescue it from the claws of Judaization and settlement. There is no alternative to this option, which is in no way subject to bargaining or negotiation."

Algeria

Bomb Blast Strikes Algiers Building; 37 Injured

LD2605092695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced this morning that the final toll of last night's bomb blast in a building at Bachdjarah in the capital of Algiers has risen to 37 injured people, including five children, and a six-month old baby. The blast also destroyed the western side of the building.

According to the Security Services, 34 injured people returned home after receiving treatment, while the others are still under medical observation.

Sifi Addresses Closing of Governors Meeting

LD2505222795 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting which brought together members of the government and provincial governors concluded today. At the meeting, a number of topics were evaluated and studied, including the development of investments, application of the social safety net, and other issues. [passage omitted]

At this meeting, and as a final speech, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi addressed the governors and spoke about elections, education, housing, investment, local development, and other issues. The meeting was a coordination and consultation undertaking. It provided an opportunity to sum up the problems which had been raised in the arena. [passage omitted]

Concerning preparations for elections, the prime minister said that favorable conditions exist for holding the polls. It was agreed to organize a new meeting with all the governors devoted to the presidential elections. Also, all the necessary measures will be taken to provide telephone links in the municipalities that do not have them in order to link them with the polling stations. Instructions were given to set up communications centers to facilitate the work of the press on election day, and other measures will be introduced relating to facilitating the task of the international observers who will follow up the election process. [passage omitted]

Insists Security Situation Improving

LD2505223695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 2130 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi gave a news conference after the meeting between government and provincial governors. He told Leila Smail about his satisfaction with the work. [passage omitted]

The prime minister also spoke about the issue of security.

[Begin Sifi recording] All I require in the way of proof is what the citizens are saying. Ask them; what do you yourself think about it? Do you believe that the situation has deteriorated or has it improved? And we have now gotten used to this way of life a little bit and we can feel it ourselves. I don't know how you feel about things? But I say that it is not through communiques and statistics that one is to say whether the situation has improved or not — it's on the terrain. The fact that we have brought the provincial governors together for three days, the fact that they have had to leave the provinces — that means that things are going alright, compared to the past. There is still a need for improvement; the situation is never perfect. [end recording]

Sudanese Islamists Implicated in Terrorism

LD2505205195 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Fatimah Ahmad Ibrahim, an official in the Sudanese opposition, has revealed that the Sudanese Islamic National Front, which is led by Hasan al-Turabi, has been playing the role of providing money and men for the Algerian fundamentalist network.

The leader of the Front for Peace and Democracy [Mrs Ibrahim], in a statement to the [Paris] newspaper L'HUMANITE, said that there were a number of Sudanese among the Algerian terrorists who have been killed. One should also talk about the existence of training centers in Sudan operating for the benefit of Algerian armed groups and also terrorists from other countries.

Egypt

Al-Baz Views Peace Talks, 'Expanded' Arab Summit

NC2505130995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said Egypt believes that all moves to achieve progress on the various tracks, including the Syrian one, are steps in the right direction.

After bidding farewell to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, al-Baz commented on the agreement between Syria and Israel on security measures. He said: We hope this step will lead to real easing in the negotiations on

the Syrian track. He expressed his hope that this step will herald agreement between Syria and Israel at an early stage, "at the end of this year or in the early weeks of next year."

He added: We know that there are difficult rounds of negotiations, but if there is a will on Israel's part, negotiations on sticking points on the Syrian track may be completed.

On the other hand, al-Baz emphasized the need to work very seriously to reach agreement with the Palestinian Authority on Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank and on holding elections in the Palestinian territories so that the established 1 July date will be met.

He said: We believe it is very important to meet such dates because going beyond them may compromise the peace process.

Commenting on some Arab countries' calls for an expanded Arab summit to solve their problems and clear the air, he said Egypt has received nothing on this. If an Arab country has a proposal in this regard, it should submit it to the Arab League, he noted.

He clarified that Egypt will define its position on the issue after consultations with the Arab League Secretariat and other countries.

Swiss Vice President Delamuraz Meets Leaders

Offers Mubarak Economic Help

NC2505095095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0755 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, vice president of the Swiss Confederation, has stressed that the Egyptian economy is thriving. He said it is the duty of the industrial countries and Switzerland to strengthen and facilitate this economic growth by establishing projects in Egypt capable of accommodating the entire Egyptian labor force.

In a statement following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Delamuraz said: Egypt is now experiencing economic transition and we must participate in preparations for the next economic stage in Egypt, where there will be normal trade between Egypt and Switzerland and investment and joint companies will be strengthened.

He said President Mubarak stressed during the meeting his interest in an investment that establishes small and medium-size companies. He said the president pointed in this regard to the experiment of the Akhmim handmade drug factory, which he saw in Upper Egypt yesterday.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, said the talks between President Mubarak and the Swiss delegation dealt with various issues, notably Switzerland's support for Egypt's economic reform program.

He said the Swiss vice president told the president that Switzerland admires the economic measures taken by Egypt and expressed his country's financial backing of Egypt's economic reform program by reducing Egypt's debts owed to Switzerland by 150 million Swiss francs, the equivalent of 450 million Egyptian pounds. Switzerland also decided to establish a development fund with 450 million Egyptian pounds to create new job opportunities for the young and to improve and increase social services to low-income people.

He said the talks also dealt with the role played by Egypt and President Mubarak to achieve peace in the Middle East. The Swiss vice president said he very much admired the basic role played by President Mubarak.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali cited the Swiss vice president as saying that Egypt's contribution to humanity in the 20th century is immeasurable.

Views Israeli 'Threat' With Musa

NC2505170995 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1310 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed the importance of preparing a suitable atmosphere for the peace process in the Middle East by halting the Israeli practices that run counter to the agreements that Israel signed and to the UN resolutions. He made this statement during a session today with Swiss Vice President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz and his delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo.

Musa reiterated that the Israeli nuclear program is causing tension in the region in view of the imbalance it creates. It opens the way for an arms race in the region. He said that the Israeli nuclear program poses a direct threat to the Arab countries bordering Israel. He reviewed Egypt's efforts to achieve economic reforms and the guarantees that Egypt provides for foreign investments.

Discussing Egyptian-Swiss cooperation in Africa, Musa stressed the importance of cooperation to resolve the problems facing Africa, particularly the economic, health, and refugee problems.

Musa stressed Egypt's eagerness to bolster cooperation between Mediterranean and European countries and of its desire that the first conference of the foreign ministers of the two sides, scheduled to meet in Barcelona

in November, be a success. The Swiss vice president stressed that his country is eager to see peace achieved in the Middle East. During the meeting the two sides also discussed developments in the Middle East, promoting foreign investment in Egypt, and Egyptian-Swiss cooperation in assisting the African countries to cope with the economic, social, and health problems.

Recent Success of Counternarcotics Body Detailed

*NC2605065195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1615 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — A team belonging to the Counternarcotics General Administration this morning discovered 3.5 million poppy bushes over an area of 101 feddan in Ra's Sudr in southern Sinai. Stating this at a news conference at his headquarters today, Major General 'Isam al-Tirsawi, assistant to the interior minister and director of the Counternarcotics General Administration, said that the unit, which was established in the middle of last year, is in charge of combating narcotic plants and has succeeded in uncovering millions of trees this year. He pointed out that as a result of the continuing campaigns a criminal band was uncovered in Ismailia, where the security authorities arrested two brothers in possession of a half kg of heroin and 44,000 Egyptian pounds at dawn today. Some 20 kg of poppy and 30 gm of opium were seized in the continuing campaigns in Ismailia.

Maj. Gen. al-Tirsawi noted that the counternarcotics men launched a campaign in Dumyat and arrested four major drug traffickers with criminal records, who were in possession of quantities of various types of drugs. He noted that despite the continuing campaigns, it is noticeable that there is a reduction in the volume of the seized drugs and an increase in the number of cases relating to the cultivation of narcotic plants. He pointed out that there is a great increase in the number of cases relating to the cultivation of poppy plants. He said that the Counternarcotics General Administration has achieved full control of legal and illegal smuggling routes [as published], noting that there is complete coordination between the Border Guard Forces and the Counternarcotics General Administration and with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, which provide the Counternarcotics General Administration with pesticides. [passage omitted]

Arrests, Confiscations Outlined

*NC2305111095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1000 GMT 23 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA) — In its annual report, the General Antinarcotics Department said the total amount of funds confiscated by the So-

cialist Public Prosecutor from arrested drug traffickers last year amounted to 42.675 billion Egyptian pounds. The department added that the number of traders whose funds have been seized reached 35 while the number of traders whose property and funds obtained by drug trafficking were confiscated was nine. The assets confiscated during the same period amounted to 6.398 billion pounds.

Some 182 people were banned from travel, 139 people were placed on the list of those banned from entering the country, 153 people were placed on the list of expected arrivals, and three suspects in drug trafficking cases were sentenced to death last year.

Daily Claims Relations With U.S. Improved

*95LD0062A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
14 Apr 95 pp 3-6*

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the cloudy, overcast skies on the eve of President Mubarak's recent visit to Washington; despite the Israelis' sly attempt to turn Egypt's disagreement with Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] into an Egyptian-American conflict with the aim of striking at Egypt's interests in the United States; and despite the mutual campaigns of criticism in the US and Egyptian press, which created an atmosphere of apprehension and worry, President Mubarak's visit succeeded in achieving mutual understanding and safeguarding Egypt's national interests. It also maintained Egypt and America's strong and firmly rooted relations, with their special character, and the drawing of correct limits linking Egypt's interests as a regional power to those of America, as the greatest power in the world at present. The visit succeeded in safeguarding Egypt's national interests, because they maintained Egypt's clear right to decline to extend the NPT indefinitely as long as Israel's nuclear program remains outside all international monitoring and as long as Israel maintains its refusal to join the treaty like others. The American administration understood the reasons and justifications for the Egyptian position despite the fact that the treaty represents for it a vital and fateful issue, as well as an absolute priority in America's basic interests, in which any dispute is inadmissible.

Against all expectations, in President Clinton's joint press conference with President Mubarak, the American President announced his understanding of the essentials upon which Egypt's position was based. This was in spite of the fact that Clinton considers the passage of the treaty by a large majority to be a test of America's global standing, and a test of the standing of his administration, which longs to achieve a decisive victory

on this issue to recoup some of its huge losses in the U.S. Congressional elections.

Many people expected the U.S.-Egyptian dispute on this subject to escalate to the point where it would threaten the two countries' relations, or for Egypt to retreat from its position under pressure from the United States, which views passage of the treaty as a must. Neither thing occurred, however. President Mubarak succeeded in containing the dispute within its true scope: an Egyptian-Israeli dispute unrelated to Egypt's position on the United States or the NPT.

President Mubarak was clear and direct in his meeting with U.S. congressmen. He made the following points:

1. Egypt does not oppose the NPT; nor does it seek to derail it or mount a vicious campaign against it. On the contrary, Egypt wants the NPT to be global, including all sides, so as to win credibility from all. There is absolutely no reason for Israel to be the sole exception to the treaty, while Egypt declares its unconditional commitment to a permanent treaty that would eternally perpetuate Israel's nuclear supremacy in the absence of any corresponding deterrent, maintaining the current balance of security in the Middle East.

2. The dispute, in its essence, is not with the United States. It is with Israel, which insists that its nuclear program should remain exempt from international monitoring and offers excuses that are difficult or even impossible to accept, which defy logic and reality, which defy the new realities brought about by peace in the Middle East.

3. Egypt's objective is not the failure of the treaty or the creation of an artificial crisis with the United States or Israel. Egypt wants a serious negotiation with the Israelis guaranteeing the existence of a new Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction. This cannot come about unless Israel joins the NPT.

4. Despite its reservations about indefinitely extending the NPT because of Israel's nuclear program, Egypt will not withdraw from the treaty. Egypt has a basic interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, especially as it is still refraining from establishing a nuclear program of its own, and because Egypt's goal is to persuade Israel of the need to join the NPT. This is a goal that cannot be realized if Egypt withdraws from the NPT, and because Egypt's presence among the NPT countries secures it the support of the advanced countries in projects for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful development.

When one congressman asked about Rabin's position, which has become more difficult, with the Syrians demanding a full withdrawal from the Golan and the

Palestinians demanding an expansion of the scope of autonomy and the withdrawal of the Israeli army out of Palestinian cities, President Mubarak's response was, "It is not a matter of choosing between withdrawal from the Golan or joining the NPT, because we are not asking Rabin to join the treaty today. We are asking for a serious negotiation concluding with the establishment of a limited program securing Israel's membership in the NPT with the completion of the Arab-Israeli peace process."

When another congressman asked President Mubarak what his position would be were Iran to seek a nuclear bomb, the President answered that if Iran were to obtain a nuclear bomb it would threaten Arab security. "However," he said, "we do not think the Iranians are seeking that goal. We got clear assurances from the Russians, during the recent visit of the Russian Foreign Minister to Cairo, that the nuclear reactors Iran wants to buy from Moscow would not be capable of aiding Iran in the production of a nuclear bomb. Nor do we think the West's strict monitoring of the export of the advanced technology can prevent the achievement of that goal."

During the visit of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Egypt submitted to Israel a plan calling for the beginning of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in which the Arab countries would participate, with the objective of clearing the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, and biological. This would [be?] in the framework of a timetable with successive phases proceeding in line with the progress of peace efforts. In this way, Israel's membership in the NPT would be a fait accompli along with the Arab countries' declaration of an end to their state of war with Israel, preceded by all sides committing themselves to clear and unambiguous mutual confidence-building measures, acceptance of mutual inspection, and a clear and frank announcement of a nuclear weapons program.

For its part, Israel offered general ideas, speaking of the possibility of its joining the NPT when it becomes proven that the current peace in the Middle East is a lasting and stable peace, of which all Arab countries, including Libya and Iraq, are part, as well as Iran—between Israel and whom there is no declared or undeclared state of war.

It was clear from the totality of these ideas that Israel rejects any limited commitment and that it is keeping the whole matter hostage to a vague and unknown future, which it is difficult or even impossible to define. Israel has pinned its intentions on the joining of the NPT, "and not membership itself" on impossible conditions and guarantees for itself, "and not for others," that the

Middle East peace be stable and lasting. It then added the impossible condition of the Iran excuse, in order to get rid of any time limit that would make its membership in the NPT likely.

In spite of that, Egypt believes that Israel has taken a step forward on the road, because in the past it refused to make its nuclear program the subject of any discussion or negotiation. In the various multilateral committees coming out of the Madrid conference, there had been a virtual permanent Israeli veto over any discussion that touched its nuclear program, however remotely.

Unfortunately, the Israeli position hardened with this vague formula that would not convince a child. When Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa offered Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres a four-point proposal, Israel refused to respond to the Egyptian proposals. Talks were stalled until the visit to Washington, which was followed by the Paris meeting between 'Amr Musa and Shimon Peres.

The Paris meeting did not succeed in breaking the deadlock in that position, because the Israelis still insisted on the vague formula, giving no actual promise of the possibility of its [Israel's] joining the NPT within a known time frame, even were that time frame to be very open, lasting several years. Most likely, Israel will continue to maneuver in its obdurate position, without taking any steps forward. This is despite the efforts of several European and Asian countries to persuade Israel of the need to respond to Egypt's proposals before the New York conference is held, so that Egypt might drop its opposition to the indefinite extension of the NPT.

On 17 April, the conference of countries signatory to the NPT will begin. It is being held on the 25th anniversary of the implementation of the treaty to review its provisions and study its renewal, in spite of several signs confirming that the United States has obtained the legal quorum needed to renew the treaty—half plus one—though there is strong opposition to U.S. conditions requiring unconditional approval to extend the NPT indefinitely.

There is a major insistence, on the part of a large number of nonaligned countries, on the need for the extension of the treaty for successive limited periods, with the holding of regular conferences to review the implementation of its provisions. The renewal of the NPT is to be for an indefinite period, without conditions, meaning that the superpowers would maintain their nuclear monopoly forever, with the remaining countries not being able to compel them to reduce their nuclear weapons or implement the NPT's provisions.

Also, there is a wave of intense global unease, because the NPT's provisions do not include a commitment on the part of the superpowers to reduce their nuclear stockpiles. Nor does it include a precise, integrated system for the monitoring and inspection of nuclear facilities and inspection of nuclear stockpiles. Nor do the NPT provisions provide for guarantees on the part of large powers sufficient to prevent nuclear aggression on other countries.

Some big powers have offered proposals with guarantees providing for the Security Council to call an urgent meeting in case of nuclear aggression, to take the necessary measures to counter that aggression. Even so, the important question is: What good is that meeting, given the veto power that can kill any Council resolution?

Indeed, some expectations go so far as to see the likelihood of the United States being forced to postpone voting on the plan to extend the treaty for six months, with the conference remaining in session, with the aim of obtaining broad international acceptance, guaranteeing the NPT a commanding majority, reflecting the support of the international community, instead of a limited majority revealing the depth of the dispute over some of its provisions, especially as most countries prefer to approve the extension for successive time periods, allowing for a chance for periodic review of the NPT's provisions and application.

In any case, Egypt will have its say clearly in the meeting of nonaligned states and in the New York meeting. Its decision will reflect the extent of Israel's response to Egypt's just demand that Israel commit itself to joining the treaty. Anyway, Egypt will not agree to an indefinite extension of the treaty if Israel holds to its current position.

President Mubarak succeeded in transcending the bounds of the Egyptian-American dispute over the NPT because he was frank and clear. He said the same things publicly that he said in closed rooms rather than inventing battles or crises, but he did not yield a single particle of Egypt's national interests. In his defense he relied on a clear rationale and sound logic in a reasonable dialogue aimed at mutual understanding. He did not look for a confrontation backed up by overwhelming national consensus. He insisted on justice and rejected double standards, seeking equal security for all sides.

With his candor, clarity, and logic, Mubarak won the respect of the members of the US Congress with its overwhelming new majority, which promised to support Egypt's right to receive its entire share of the U.S. aid program for 1996 in view of Egypt's pioneering role in establishing a just and comprehensive

peace in the Middle. Another reason is the fact that Egypt represents the cornerstone of the region's security and stability and because it protects the trend toward moderation in a region swept with violent intellectual and political movements calling for clashes, violence, and confrontation.

When the Senate Majority Leader accompanied President Mubarak into the Senate chamber, as Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy proceeded with his speech on cutting the American budget, the American senator stopped his speech to greet President Mubarak, who made a supreme effort for peace in the Middle East and the world, and to salute the efforts of Egypt, which had succeeded in confronting and containing the dangers of terrorism, so that moderation and tolerance would triumph over extremism and violence.

The greatest proof of that, however, is President Mubarak's success in putting Egyptian-American relations in their true context, maintaining Egypt's right to dissent when it was a question of Egypt's basic interests, including its national security.

There were many who feared the outcome of the dispute with the United States, especially with an administration that is not strong confronting a domestic predicament that could force it to take more hard-line positions in order to demonstrate its strength and worthiness. There were many who imagined that President Mubarak's encounter with the U.S. Congress with its new Republican majority would be stormy, because the Republicans are not very enthusiastic about U.S. foreign aid, and because they seek a perfect congruence in American policies and those of Egypt as the price of the aid and as a condition for it, and because they will be more active in supporting the Israeli point of view as they draw nearer to presidential elections they expect to win, just as they won the overwhelming majority in Congress. There were even those who imagined the only solution was for Egypt to knuckle under to Israel's conditions because Israel is the key to American decision-making and approval and because it can punish Egypt with an American hand.

In the discussions between President Mubarak and members of Congress, President Mubarak expressed, with total clarity, the disputes that could come up in the two sides' points of view due to the differences between the Egyptian vision and the American one, due to the fact that Egypt's interests differ at times from those of the United States. The important thing is that this difference not become a clash affecting the special relations between the two countries.

In the Americans' view, al-Qadhdhafi still represents a threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, and

America must keep up its pressure on the Libyan regime until it complies with all demands. In Egypt's view, al-Qadhdhafi, whatever the excesses of some of his thinking, has changed a great deal and has become more serious and moderate in his positions of peace and terrorism, and in his keeping to a more rational path in Libya, domestically. He has also sought to improve his relations with his Arab and African neighbors. Indeed, President Mubarak has not concealed his fears of the danger that instability in Libya would pose to the future of the Middle East, because Libya represents a buffer zone foiling the plans of terrorism in the Arab east from meeting with terror plans in North Africa.

President Mubarak also expressed, very clearly indeed, his stand on the continued sanctions against the Iraqi people, sanctions that unjustifiably impose a harsh punishment for the errors of their rulers. The people have committed no sin or crime. He emphasized the need for the international community to ease the suffering of the people who are enduring a massive humanitarian tragedy about which it is impossible to remain silent.

Addressing the question of Middle East peace, President Mubarak did not conceal his fears of the danger of conditions remaining in their present state in the Gaza Strip, where 100,000 Palestinians working inside Israel were suffering harsh unemployment because Israel insisted on the mass punishment of the Palestinian people. In spite of this, unemployment would lead to the spread of incentives for despair and extremism and strengthen the position of those who reject the peace efforts. President Mubarak also warmly defended the need for all possible efforts to be made for an Israeli-Syrian accord before the coming Israeli elections. He reaffirmed Egypt's readiness to play a role in bringing the points of view closer together because President al-Asad truly wants a genuine and total peace in which Syria would recover the whole Golan and through which Israel can have normal relations with the Syrian people.

Government Seen Escalating Pressure on Brotherhood

95LD0056A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH
in Arabic Mar 95 pp 35-38

[Unattributed article: "With the Approach of Association and Legislative Elections in Egypt: A New Government Attack on the Brotherhood and Media Allegations To Distort Its Image"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian regime has escalated its security and media campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood by arresting a group of its leaders, enlisting the government press to distort the Brotherhood's image, and smearing it with accusations of violence and

terrorism. In response, the Brotherhood has issued statements disputing the government's allegations and condemning its campaign. This campaign was met with angry reactions from the professional associations and Islamic movement groups in some Arab countries. Some journalists for government newspapers also supported the Brotherhood and called for the regime to reconsider its position.

As official government sources were referring to the Brotherhood insinuatingly and accusing it of supporting violence by describing it as a outlawed and illegal group, the campaign took on the appearance of an attempt to strike at the Brotherhood and negatively affect its electoral success. News spread that the Brotherhood intended to enter this November's elections after an eight-year boycott, since the 1987 elections, which the Brotherhood had entered in an alliance with the al-Ahrrar and Labor parties, winning a group of parliamentary seats. This was the second experiment during President Sadat's regime, as the Brotherhood, allied with the Wafd party, entered the 1984 elections and also won conclusively.

This campaign is considered one of the harshest cycles of government escalation against the Brotherhood, not stopping with arresting its leaders or defaming it but extending to alleging conflicts among the Brotherhood's leadership.

Mass Arrests

Although last 23 January's dawn raid, which resulted in the arrest of 28 of the Brotherhood's leadership, was not the first of its kind, it was nevertheless more comprehensive and wider ranging. Those arrested were from various governorates and were leading Brotherhood members who were noticeably active in the professional unions managed by the Brotherhood. The list of those arrested included a previous People's Assembly representative from the Brotherhood, Dr. 'Issam al-Iriyan, assistant secretary general of the Physicians' Association; Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farany, secretary of the Alexandria Physicians' Association; Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Sharif from al-Buhyrah; 'Abd-al-Khaleq Hasan from Bani Suef; accountant Muhammad al-'Arishy, Cairo; Dr. Muhammad Salamah, Giza; Dr. 'Ali 'Izz al-Din Thabet, member of the Asyut Physicians' Association; Engineer Ahmad Mahmud, president of the Hayy al-Arba'in local council in Suez and adviser to the Islamic engineering organizations union; Muhammad Basyuny Husayn, a teacher in Tanta; Engineer Sa'd al-Husayn, al-Mahallah; Mahmud al-Dib, Damyat; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghany, president of the Zaqazig local council; Jamal Sa'd Madhy, owner of a printing and publishing

house; Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim, Port Sa'id; Ahmad Muhammad Faraj, a teacher in al-Fayum; Dr. Muhammad 'Awadh Ramadhan, Damanhur; Muhammad 'Abd-uh Ibrahim, a Cairo accountant; Mustafa 'Abd-al-Karim, member of the Awsim Giza city's local council; Ibrahim Metwally Yasin, Cairo; Sabih 'Ali Sabih, Cairo; Rizq 'Abd-al-Rashid Yunis, an engineer in Menufiyah; Qasem Muhammad Qasem, Cairo; Mahmud Mustafa al-Bindary, an engineer in Suez; Bashir Muhammad al-'Abd, al-'Arish; Muhammad Taha Wahdan and 'Abdullah Taha Wahdan, Isma'iliyah; and agricultural engineer Husayn Isma'il, Cairo.

Following the release of 86-year-old Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah for poor health, interrogations of the prisoners focused on their membership in the Muslim Brotherhood, its organization and goals, and the call to hold elections and select Brotherhood leaders on the national level.

It is said that the report submitted by the Bureau of Investigation for National Security [mubaahith amn dawlah] to the public prosecutor's office was dated 27 December, a month before the arrest campaign. This confirms that it was fabricated and reveals the conspiratorial intent of this campaign long before it took place. The Bureau of Investigation's refusal of Dr. 'Issam al-Iriyan's request to put the documents that were confiscated after the search of his home into a sealed depository, meaning documents may have been planted, lends credence to the rumor that the public prosecutor's office intends to fabricate charges against the prisoners.

The public prosecutor's office has ordered that the prisoners' detention be extended for two 15-day periods on the charge of working through a secret organization to overthrow the regime, possessing pamphlets and publications promoting the Brotherhood's ideas, and making contacts with foreign entities. The public prosecutor's office also accused the prisoners of conducting elections within the group; forming a general advisory council; relying on some constitutional institutions, such as the professional associations and student unions; organizing camps; working among the people; establishing commercial projects within the professional associations to enrich their members; receiving financial support from foreign entities; and holding organizational meetings to determine the details of the group's movement.

Scientific research has now become a crime in security practice: The Bureau of Investigation for National Security has arrested researcher Ibrahim al-Bayumy on a charge of belonging to the Brotherhood and preparing his master's degree thesis on the thought[s] of the martyred Imam Hasan al-Banna. The basis for the arrest was that preparing this study revealed the

researcher's knowledge of the group's thoughts. The public prosecutor's office accused him of preparing a plot to overthrow the regime and the system of party organization in violation of the law.

Striking at the Association Experiment

In the context of the government plot to distort the image of the group, government newspapers have spread allegations that the Brotherhood is experiencing internal rifts.

The recent government escalation against the Muslim Brotherhood has also included eliminating its members from leadership positions in official state institutions. The membership of 'Uthman Ahmad Ibrahim in the Shura Council was annulled on the grounds that an error in counting the votes had resulted in 63 additional votes in his favor during the 1989 elections. It is well known that this member is a prominent leader in the Brotherhood, known for his Islamic tendencies. This is the secret behind his expulsion and the annulment of his membership. The claim of an error in the voting is considered a cover to justify the annulment decision. The decision was voted for by 185 Shura Council members and abstained on by Ahmad al-Sabahy, leader of the Egyptian Umma party.

In the light of the clear success achieved by the Brotherhood in managing the professional associations, where they had won sweeping election victories, the government press launched a media campaign designed to misrepresent the Brotherhood's experiment in the associations by accusing it of mismanagement, bias toward the Islamists, financial improprieties, and giving association positions only to Brotherhood members and members of the association councils who belong to the group.

The press devoted much space to covering the crisis that flared up in the lawyers' association between association president Ahmad al-Khawaja and the association's council, managed by the Brotherhood, because of a dispute over procedures and expenditures of association resources.

Preparation for What is Coming

The Brotherhood took action to respond to the government's position and challenge its allegations. It issued a series of statements condemning the recent campaign of arrests and the arrest of Brotherhood leaders without any charges that would warrant this. It described this campaign as merely fabricating security crises that increase the tension in the relationship between the regime and the Brotherhood. It stated that the persons arrested represent the elite of the professional associations; their

ethical conduct was irreproachable and there was no proof that they were practicing violence or supporting it.

The Brotherhood emphasized its position repudiating violence and terrorism. The group's official spokesman, counselor al-Hudaybi, noted that it does not aspire to power; rather, it aims to "enjoin right conduct and forbid indecency" [from Pickthall's translation of Sura II, verse 104]. He said, "The group's popularity is proven by the professional association elections that were swept by the Brethren, who work legally and aboveboard; they do not work underground like the groups using violence."

President Mubarak had accused the Brotherhood of making contacts with Washington; it denied this, stating that America's position on Islam precludes an alliance with her. The U.S. Administration also denied this allegation.

Concerning the public prosecutor's office's claim to have voice recordings incriminating the Brotherhood, Counselor al-Hudaybi stated that these recordings were of public press conferences and meetings during which the Brothers explained their ideas and program. They were participating in political life openly and legally, adopting a definition of opposition based on giving wise counsel without aspiring to power as an objective. This, however, does not keep them from entering elections. The group called on the government to reconsider its security policy and to devote itself to confronting domestic and foreign problems and enemy conspiracies.

The recent government escalation provoked a wave of rage and protest in association circles, resulting in various forms of condemnatory reactions, including mass rallies, days of solidarity, continual meetings of general assemblies, and statements of condemnation. Some journalists also supported the Brotherhood, calling on the regime to review its policy on it.

The Danger of the Government's Policy

More than one meeting was held in the physicians' association alone. What all the recommendations had in common was rejection of the government's crackdown and the demand for immediate release of the prisoners. Dr. Hamdy al-Sayyed, head of the physicians' association, described this escalation as irresponsible behavior. He noted that the charges leveled at the prisoners were vague and unspecific. He rebutted the charge that the Brotherhood was receiving support from abroad, stating that the associations' monies that they manage are public and subject to oversight by the Central Accounting Organization.

The physicians also maintained solidarity with their arrested colleagues. The heads of the professional associ-

ations decided to send telegrams to President Mubarak and to contact officials, trying to get the prisoners released quickly. The association also designated Friday, 2 February, as a day of solidarity with them.

Within the Arab context, the Arab Physicians' Union denounced the recent arrests, and the Union of Islamic Medical Organizations, which includes half a million doctors from 51 Islamic countries, proclaimed its solidarity with the arrested physicians. The physicians' association's branch organizations decided to remain convoked to discuss ways to resist the government's latest attack. The professional associations held a public meeting in the physicians' association headquarters on 5 February during which the associations' heads agreed on criticism of the government's repressive actions that distort Egypt's image and are inconsistent with the freedoms that have been granted.

Meanwhile, the lawyers', engineers', and scientists' associations issued statements of solidarity with the prisoners, in which they emphasized the danger of the government's policy restricting freedoms and the widespread, possibly uncontrollable anger and rage it might evoke in cultural circles. The freedoms committees of the professional associations also held an international press conference to explain the associations' antiviolence positions and condemn the unjustified government actions that will only result in more escalation, violence, and counterviolence.

The lawyers' association—through its secretary general, Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna—called on the government to agree with the Brotherhood on common ground to end the enmity between the two sides and pave the way for confronting shared dangers and the conspiracies being hatched by foreign forces.

The Egyptian Human Rights Organization issued a statement condemning the arrest of the physician leaders and announcing that the actions taken by Egyptian authorities against those who hold opinions diminished the regime and that what was now happening in Egypt was in no one's interest.

On the level of the media, some journalists analyzed the charges against the prisoners as meaning nothing other than that they were practicing democracy and exercising the right of participation in elections, with the government calling for this and then arresting those who wanted to enter. They added that characterization of the Brotherhood as prohibited, secret, and illegal was completely disproven by the suit it had brought to obtain legitimacy and exercise its rights to publish its ideas openly among the Egyptian people, a constitutional right for all citizens.

Historical Reality

The government attack on the Brotherhood also aroused writers known for their leftist views and hostility toward the Islamic movement. The writer Faridah al-Naqqash stated that what was happening to the Brotherhood confirms the increasing influence of the wing that confuses terrorist and moderate factions within the Islamic movement. She said, "The government is making a mistake in arresting the Brothers on charges of being illegitimate after permitting them to have a presence in Egyptian life; their popularity and influence has spread in a way that gives the lie to their illegitimacy and confirms that they are a historical reality on the Egyptian political map. Their arrest will only lead to more extremism." She called on the government to offer programs to solve pressing problems and deal with the citizenry's concerns and problems, stating that this is the government's alternative to eliminating its opposition.

In Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood group called for opening the doors to freedom and true plurality, condemning what had happened to the Brothers in Egypt. It is well known that the Jordanian Brothers hold 16 of the 80 seats in the Jordanian parliament.

The government's position of hostility toward the Brotherhood continues to lend credence to the view that the Egyptian regime fears the Brotherhood's influence and that it knows full well its popularity and the strong likelihood that it will win the upcoming elections. Therefore, it is trying to diminish this influence and eliminate the opportunities for an election win. What it is doing, however, is having the opposite effect, as sympathy with the Brotherhood is growing; it is gaining new ground and followers. Disgust with the government's security policies is also growing, as well as condemnation of its repressive actions, and the government is not learning anything from its mistakes or reviewing its fruitless positions. The Brotherhood's mass presence will defeat any official attempts to eliminate them, and these attempts will not mend the robe of government policy that has failed to confront violence; it has lost its aim and can no longer distinguish between extremism and moderation.

A New Attack on the Associations

In a new development of the government escalation against the Brotherhood, in their capacity as managers of most of the professional associations active in formulating and defining political and social life in Egypt, the Egyptian People's Assembly approved an amendment to Law 100 of 1993 giving its judicial and administrative committees absolute authority to control the election process. This had been rejected by the professionals last year and reflects the government's scheming to

expel the Islamic movement from the professional associations.

The new draft law also stipulates establishment of election committees in military barracks, which will prevent the civilian candidates from exercising their right to spread campaign propaganda among military physicians or engineers, etc. It is also considered a spearhead for the army into the battlefield of political life.

The professional associations revolted against this escalation, rejecting and condemning this government action. They organized an international press conference to explain the dimensions of the government conspiracy against the associations. They also led a peaceful demonstration in front of the People's Assembly, in protest over the irresponsible procedures it used in debating the associations' laws without reviewing them with prominent professionals.

This demonstration, which included more than 3,000 members of the associations' main councils and sub-councils, had no result, however, except that the Assembly's deputy, Ahmad Hammady, met with a delegation of professional association members and promised it that the law would not be passed until the views of the professionals' general assemblies had been obtained. However, suddenly and without previous notice, the amendments were debated in the People's Assembly committees in record time and the law was passed in the absence of its people.

This behavior caused the professionals to revolt. They fired off statements of condemnation expressing their position. Last week witnessed a strong reaction against the regime's practices, as emergency general assemblies of the physicians', engineers', scientists', pharmacists', and other associations were convened, in which they expressed their rejection of Law 100 and its amendments. They called on the president of the republic not to listen to bad advice, especially since the professional associations had had an unprecedented renaissance in the professional/service and nationalist arenas.

The emergency general assemblies that were held last Sunday—amidst intensified security and after professionals from the governorates were prevented from travelling to Cairo where the associations' headquarters are—were crowned with the convening of a general conference for all the professional associations, attended by thousands of members. It ended with recommendations, the most important of which are:

1. Calling on the president of the republic to annul Law 100 of 1993 and its amendments and give a delegation

of professionals the opportunity to meet with him to present their point of view

2. Not submitting any other laws pertaining to the associations before presenting them to the pertinent general assemblies

3. Rejecting establishment of election headquarters inside any groups, whether military or civilian, and proposing that all headquarters should be owned by or through the associations to ensure fairness and lack of bias or influence over the voters in the elections in accordance with the principle of equality among the voters stipulated by the constitution

4. Sending letters to the International Labor Organization and human rights organizations referring to the violation of freedoms, killing of democracy, and violation of the constitution, the law, and international agreements in such a way as to threaten the future of the association movement and association work in Egypt

5. Publishing in "black lists" the names of professionals who are members of the People's Assembly in the current session who have participated in issuing Law 100 of 1993 and amendments so as to record their names for history and their electoral districts, as well as publishing the names of those who opposed it in lists of honor

6. Condemning the arrest and detention of professional leaders and demanding their speedy release

7. Sending a telegram to the president of the republic expressing support for Egypt's position on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and insisting that it not be signed

8. Calling on the judges' club and the Supreme Judicial Council to stand with the professionals in their just cause and not to force the justice system into an unwarranted confrontation with the professionals

9. Demanding that Egyptian officials conduct fair, free general elections in all the assemblies (the People's Assembly, the Shura Council, the local councils, and referendums for the presidency of the republic, etc.) to produce those who will represent the people and express the will of the voters, along with putting into practice the measures that they claim are being taken to further democracy, whether by stipulating 50 percent or complete judicial supervision over the elections

10. Forming a delegation from all the professional associations to expose the Egyptian People's Assembly's practices to the international parliament headed by Dr. Ahmad Fathy Surur

11. Organizing a daylong general strike of all the professional associations on Thursday, 16 February 1995

12. Renewing confidence in the current associations' councils

13. Calling for annulment of all questionable and disreputable laws and the Emergency Law.

A recommendation to organize a march to the presidential palace was adopted, since the professionals had tried repeatedly during the passing of the law that they described as "a foundling," but this was not permitted. Even the government newspapers refused to publish an appeal to the president until after his name was removed from the appeal.

As the professionals were determined to go on a protest march to the presidential palace, they formed a delegation representing the associations and gave a memorandum explaining their point of view on the recent amendments to the presidency's diwan. There had been a promise to arrange a meeting with the president; however, so far there has been no response regarding this.

In a new development, on 16 February, Cairo witnessed a general strike by the professionals in all state medical, engineering, scientific, commercial, and other institutions, protesting the lack of respect for their will.

The Brotherhood Conference

The Muslim Brotherhood held its annual breakfast in an Egyptian hotel, attended by representatives from various political parties, associations, and national forces. The event was transformed into a political conference during which the political leadership discussed national issues, particularly the recent developments in the Palestinian cause, the related contracting of weak agreements with the Zionist enemy, and new developments of this in light of what happened last year at the same time in the way of naked Zionist aggression against the worshipers in the Ibrahim mosque.

The political forces, represented by more than 300 prominent figures, also discussed the current developments on the Egyptian scene, including the vicious attack on the opposition in general and on the Muslim Brotherhood in particular. The breakfast, which lasted for several hours, ended with several recommendations signed by the al-Azhar representative, Jamal Qutb; Dr. Helmy Nimr, head of the businessmen's association and a member of the National Party; Dr. Rashad Bayumy, deputy of the scientists' association; Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar, head of the New Call Association [Jam'iyah al-Nida' al-Jadid]; Sulayman Hajar, head of the nurses' associ-

ation; Dr. 'Adel Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party; Dr. Mahmud al-Muraghy, member of the Nasserist Party's executive committee; Mustafa Kamel Murad, head of the al-Ahrar Party; Mustafa Mashhur, deputy of the Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Guide; Maurice Sadeq, secretary general of the Human Rights Committee for the Support of National Unity; Dr. Milad Hanna, president of the religious brotherhood assembly; and Dr. Ni'man Jum'ah, vice president of the Wafd Party.

The Recommendations

- Rejecting the government's attack on the popular institutions, particularly the recent attack against the professional associations with the aim of nationalizing them;
- Calling for the immediate release of those arrested or detained because of their views, without having committed any violent act, along with halting all violations of human rights and treating freedom of speech as a general principle that does not result in arresting or suspecting the person who exercises it;
- Working to promote the democratic process as a basis of political stability and a starting point for ending all terrorist acts, to include ending the State of Emergency and reaffirming the guarantees of free elections;
- Supporting the government's position refusing to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and linking this to ridding the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction;
- Supporting the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate its land and regain Jerusalem, along with liberating all occupied Arab and Islamic territories;
- Lifting the embargo against the Muslim Arab peoples of Iraq and Libya and all occupied Islamic and Arab territories;
- Supporting the Muslim people of Bosnia, Chechen, and all other places where the sanctity and freedom of Muslims are violated and they are deprived of their rights;
- Rejecting all forms of terrorism, whether international or individual, bearing in mind that the Islamic struggle for liberation from imperialism is not considered to be among the terrorist acts that we reject;
- Rejecting all forms and manifestations of normalization with the Zionist enemy and calling for boycotting it.

Mallawi Area Protests Security Forces95LD0072A *Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic* 2 May 95
p 7

[Report by Ahmad Mahjub]

[FBIS Translated Text] Demonstrations broke out in the Tandah village of Mallawi area last week protesting the murder of Ahmad 'Abid Ibrahim, a companion of Bashir Kamal, commander of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's military wing in Mallawi. Hundreds of demonstrators shouted slogans against the government, the ruling party, and the security services. The security forces fired shots to disperse the demonstrators. Meanwhile, the security services have continued to arrest innocent people, causing anxiety in al-Minya about the future of Mallawi in the light of threats to completely paralyze life there.

The deteriorating situation in al-Minya, as described by Shaykh Mustafa Hammad, secretary of the Labor Party in al-Minya, is due to violations by the security services. These violations include beating and killing innocent people and fabricating charges against them. He says: The incident in which the police opened fire, without prior warning, at four officers in Bani Mazar, killing two mentally retarded people is the best proof of this. Security officers also take some detainees to the sugar cane fields and execute them after they place weapons next to them. Then they fabricate charges that they had resisted arrest by the security forces. Then many innocent people are rounded up indiscriminately. Furthermore, police cars disturb the people's peace, upsetting some children. The security forces also destroy large areas of sugar cane, which is a national crop, causing damage to the country's economy and to the farmers.

Shaykh Hammad adds: The security forces claim that the Islamist groups kill police officers. Killing police officers is wrong, but the wrong cannot be corrected with wrong methods. The police cannot counter a violation of the law by violating the law. They should abide by the law so the people can learn to abide by it. Indiscriminate killing is taking place in areas where revenge has become a social principle and even a belief among educated and uneducated people. Such violations have ignited the fire of revenge. The police must extinguish this fire, abide by the law, and respect the supremacy of the law. The rule says "a person is innocent until proven guilty," and the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, has said: A rule may last with disbelief, but it will not last with injustice.

This view is confirmed by 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, secretary of the Labor Party in Mallawi. He says: In my

opinion, the security forces are the reason for the escalation in the acts of violence. The curfew that has been in effect in Mallawi for more than six months has further aggravated the situation. I expect that the authorities will not lift the curfew following the murder of Bashir Kamal, who has been made a legend by the security services. The best proof is that only a week after the murder of Kamal, violence resumed between the young people and the security forces. Violence makes no distinction between the innocent and guilty. Last Saturday evening, the police stormed the house of Baha' Dahi, a member of the Labor Party who has been working in Cairo since before the curfew. He had no connection to the incidents. The police beat up his wife and would have taken her away had it not been for Dahi's father, who told them: Kill me, but leave her to attend to her children.

Engineer Fathallah Khafaji, secretary of the Nasirite Party in al-Minya and a native of al-Mahras in Mallawi, sheds some light on the hardships facing the political parties in al-Minya because of the security situation, which has completely paralyzed their activity. He says: The average citizen makes his way to work with difficulty because he walks in the street feeling as if he is under suspicion or a fugitive. The situation regarding political activity in Mallawi is even worse. How can the people here participate in the next elections to the Consultative Council or the People's Assembly?

Regarding the situation in Mallawi following the murder of Kamal, Eng. Khafaji says: Violence will not end soon because of the outcome of recent confrontations. Many of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's leaders are still at large, and most of the Mallawi villages are still suffering from the effects of the security confrontation. It is enough just to mention that in a village like al-Mahras, six of its people have been killed and 11 others are considered fugitives and being sought by the police.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Malik, secretary of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization in al-Minya, calls on the authorities to immediately release those who are not guilty, particularly the students, so they can attend school examinations. He also calls on them to ease the unemployment situation in al-Minya, which stood at more than 99,000 people in 1993, and increase investments in the governorate. According to a report by the Council of Ministers' Data and Decisionmaking Support Center, investment in al-Minya Governorate currently does not exceed 1.61 percent of the overall investments in Egypt. He also calls on them to treat people well in police stations and apply the rule of "a person is innocent until proven guilty" and not the opposite.

Jamil 'Abd-al-Muttalib, a textile factory employee, demands that the security forces leave Mallawi. He says when they left Dayrut in Asyut Governorate some time ago, the situation got quiet. The extensive presence of the security forces aggravates the situation.

Sa'd Hasan, a Ministry of Education employee, expressed the people's anxiety and bewilderment. He says: We suspect that outside hands are behind the events. They are preventing any attempt to end them. We do not believe that Kamal was behind all the past events, and we have a suspicion about his murder in the cave in which the security forces claimed he was found hiding. Murder crimes used to take place from time to time, and then the security services used to surprise us with an announcement that the commander of a military wing of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah was killed in a battle which no one ever heard about.

Hasan wonders how Kamal has evaded arrest all this time when al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's member Muhammad 'Abd-al-Tawwab, brother-in-law of Kamal, was captured in Tandah village and killed—although he was blind—while the two were together then?

Paper Discusses Crisis in Cotton Market

95LD0061A *Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic*
14 Apr 95 pp 14-15

[Article by Ghali Mohamed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some spinneries are still looking for cotton. In the meantime, consultations, speeches, meetings, and minutes of meetings indicate that the affair may be a scam. The CEOs that rejected the principle of working for Wahbe's account accepted sharing. Nonetheless, no one has taken any action to prevent the monopoly with the pretext that the law has still not been enacted. What are the secrets of this fraudulent scheme? Our investigation into the issue of our spinneries—the primary source of Egypt's national income—is now into its second week.

Despite the 27 March 1995 meeting that Dr. Atif Obeid, minister for the public sector's cotton supply held with a number of CEOs of local spinneries, the idea to obtain the cotton from the al-Ahli company has thus far come to naught.

When Adel Habshi, president of the holding company for textile processing and commerce agreed to the suggestion that Kafr al-Dawar and Shabein al-Qum operate on behalf of the al-Ahli company, Dr. Mahmoud Wahbe opposed the idea. His rejection cost the two large companies their domestic and foreign agents. Why did Adel Habshi agree to this suggestion? Why did the Presidents of Kafr al-Dawar and Shabein al-Qum

oppose it? And what made Adel Habshi overturn his decision this week?

Before the meeting that Dr. Obeid held, events and documents indicate that the presidents of the three holding companies met on 25 March 1995. They approved the minutes of the meeting that state that "in accordance with the agreement reached during the meeting held this morning at the headquarters of the holding company for cotton and international trade, and which was attended by the presidents of the three holding companies and the spinneries they control, the following is in order:

1. No spinnery will enter into contractual agreements with any private company to process available raw cotton, whether through the purchase, lease, or sale, unless the holding company grants its written approval.
2. To abide by the decisions adopted during the previous meeting held on 15 March 1995 between the presidents of the three holding companies, decisions that were communicated to them in writing on the same date.

Adel Habshi, Mahmoud Ibrahim, and Ahmad Shouman all signed the minutes.

The aim of these decisions was to strengthen the stand of the spinneries in challenging the monopoly that the al-Ahli company seeks and the attempts of Mahmoud Wahbe to impose his conditions, be they by operating the spinneries for his account or by increasing prices.

The meeting that Dr. Obeid presided at was attended by Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, president of al-Ahli Bank, and by Adel Habshi. Ahmad Shouman, Mahmoud Ibrahim, and Mou'taz Ballah Abdel Maksoud were delayed because they were attending the Committee for Industry at the People's Assembly in order to discuss this very issue. During their absence, Mahmoud Wahbe rejected the idea of selling cotton to the spinneries. These are experiencing difficulties because of a shortage in the supply of cotton. Instead, he proposed that Kafr al-Dawar and Shabein al-Qum spin 300 thousand quintals for al-Ahli's account, an idea that Adel Habshi accepted. Upon their arrival, the rest of the group were confronted with this new agreement. Mahmoud Ibrahim refused this suggestion on the spot.

In Kafr Al-Dawar

What happened at Kafr al-Dawar and Shabein al-Qum? Engineer Fathi Ahmad says that, according to the president of the Kafr al-Dawar, putting the company's spinning mills to work for the account of Wahbe is tantamount to the sale of Kafr al-Dawar. "This," he added, "is impossible. In the past, Kafr al-Dawar had been warned of the monopoly that the al-Ahli is undertaking. Today Wahbe is attempting to be the agent

of Kafr al-Dawar and Shabein al-Qum and al-Siouf, which means that we are relinquishing to him the keys of these companies." He added that Kafr al-Dawar has a deficit of 200 thousand quintals. In order to solve this problem, he said "before the last meeting, the president of the collecting agency and I agreed that it would process 50 thousand quintals only for al-Ahli but on certain conditions. To my surprise, he sent us a contract that violated the terms despite the fact that I sent cotton to be worked to its account. However, I refused because of the violation of the terms. So, last Saturday we held a meeting that was presided by Adel Habshi and which the president of Shabein al-Qum, Engineer Salah Abdel Salam, attended along with the president of the Siouf Company and myself. We authorized Salah Abdel Salam to negotiate with al-Ahli for the purchase of cotton to be processed for the account of Kafr al-Dawar, Shabein al-Qum, and Siouf. We are willing to purchase the cotton from Al Ahli on a cash basis and for the right price, but if Mahmoud Wahbe thinks that we will work for his account, then he must be dreaming."

Engineer Salah Abdel Salam, president of the Shabein al-Qum spinning Company asserts that "we do not work for the account of Mahmoud Wahbe or that of anyone else. Nor will we write off our companies and put his name on the labels of export boxes. We yield to the al-Ahli company only because it monopolizes 600 thousand quintals. This is no freedom of trade". He added that "the capacity of the Shabein al-Qum company is of 300 thousand quintals of Egyptian cotton. We export 80 percent of our production. However, the fact that we have a deficit of 100 thousand quintals does not mean that we will sacrifice our agents and our markets. We are ready to purchase the cotton available to the Al Ahli company in cash but at the right price: 50 Egyptian pounds per quintal."

Sharing

What was the outcome of the meeting that Adel Habshi chaired at the headquarters of Kafr al-Dawar? The decision to spin 300 thousand quintals for Mahmoud Wahbe was reconsidered. Instead, it was decided that Kafr al-Dawar would spin 50 thousand quintals for the account of Mahmoud Wahbe and 100 [thousand] quintals on the basis that al-Ahli would receive a share of the profit for production and export. The Siouf company would spin another 50 thousand quintals for the account of al-Ahli company with the same conditions as those of Kafr al-Dawar, whether in operations or in sharing. As to Shabein al-Qum, it would receive only 100 thousand quintals from al-Ahli in a sharing arrangement. In other words, instead of operations alone, the arrange-

ment with al-Ahli would consist in collective working and sharing.

What is the sharing arrangement? According to Salah Abdel Salam, the sharing arrangement is a known commercial practice by which "we purchase cotton at the official rate without actually paying for it, on the basis that it is processed, exported, and sold to our agents. The profits are then divided between us and the al-Ahli company. This is the best method given the prevailing conditions. If the al-Ahli company refuses, then we won't work for it. It would then have to sell us the cotton in cash at the official rate."

What does Adel Habshi say? According to him "we have decided to cover the needs of the spinneries that we control, whether for export or for the local market. In the event that there is a surplus, it is processed for al-Ahli's account according to our rules. This does not exceed 50 thousand quintals in Kafr al-Dawar. But, in as far as sharing is concerned, if the al-Ahli company agrees to it, this would also be according to our rules. If it does not, there is no escape from the antitrust laws and the confiscation of this cotton." Adel Habshi added that the al-Ahli company sent cotton to be spun on a sharing basis. He also said that "from the very beginning, when we met with Dr. Atef Obeid, we proposed the idea to share with al-Ahli owing to poor condition of the harvest in terms of quantity, at a time when the agreement was to export as much as 1.3 million quintals."

Dr. Wahbe's Perspective

What about the other side? The issue is an old one as far as the al-Ahli company is concerned. The 31 January 1995 communication that Dr. Mahmoud Wahbe sent to the presidents of the three spinning companies is illuminating. It states that "we have been informed that the three holding companies have decided to bear the difference in prices for the purchase of cotton to the spinning companies and that this decision covers public-sector cotton companies only."

From the beginning of the harvest, our company expedited the majority of the quantity of cotton to the spinning companies. However, since the issuance of the mentioned decision, the demand for cotton available to us began to decline. We now have a choice between two options. The first is to export the cotton that is available to us. We have offers to deliver this season's harvest for an amount of up to 128 cents/lira; or to deliver next season's harvest for an amount of 122 cents/lira. Bear in mind that prices are increasing with time. The second option is to sell the cotton available to us to the local spinning companies so as not to be accused of hoarding cotton or of other practices. We prefer to sell our cotton

to the local spinning companies at a price lower than that of imported American cotton.

Naturally, the first option was not considered. But, with the second option, the al-Ahli company kept on hoarding the cotton until the shortage for the spinners became acute. It is only then that Dr. Mahmoud Wahbe asked the spinneries to work for his account.

Despite this, "our goal in the processing of cotton is to sell it to the local market because we have not yet obtained the approvals to export yarn or cotton. We are ready to sell cotton to any company on a cash basis and at the same price" according to Mr. al-Fakti, president of the financial and administrative sectors of al-Ahli.

Regarding the idea of working for his account, he said "we resorted to this arrangement only after certain companies refused to purchase cotton on a cash basis. Furthermore, they requested payment facilities, although we are not in the business of providing credit." As to working or sharing arrangements, he said "in any case, we agree to any request that local spinning companies make, whether it is working, sharing, or sale prices lower than those for American cotton." He added that "the principle of working is not open to the companies that are controlled by the holding company. It is open to other companies."

The question now is why the spinning companies don't buy cotton if the al-Ahli company is not adverse to selling it on a cash basis? "We are ready to buy in cash, even at higher prices" says Engineer Mahmoud Ibrahim. "We offered 40 Egyptian pounds above the existing price of 301 Egyptian pounds for the ALJIZA 75—but the price that Dr. Mahmoud Wahbe quoted us represents an increase of 100 Egyptian pounds per quintal. This we reject."

What of the other part of the agreement that was reached during the meeting with Dr. Atef Obeid, that is, to make available 300 thousand quintals on the spot to public-sector cotton companies? Ahmad Shouman says that it was in fact made available, and without any bearing on the quantities left for export.

Will this issue affair be decisively dealt with, and will the spinneries receive cotton at adequate prices?

Morocco

Yeltsin Writes King on 'Regrettable' Israeli Move

LD2505221095 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II has received a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin in reply to a letter that his majesty sent him following

Israel's decision to expropriate Palestinian land in East Jerusalem. The letter says, among other things:

Your Majesty, I have carefully studied your letter of 4 May 1995. Generally speaking I share the concerns expressed in your letter. It is difficult for one not to note that the decision of the Israeli Government regarding the expropriation of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem has harmed the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which are, as it is, not at all easy. Also, this Israeli measure is not congruent with a number of well-known resolutions that have been adopted by the United Nations and that our country, among others, has supported; equally it is not congruent with the spirit and letter of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

You are well aware, Your Majesty, that Russia, in its capacity as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process and as a signatory to the Palestinian-Israeli accords, is striving to make every possible effort in order to realize a positive development for the peace negotiations. In the course of our contacts with the Israelis we strongly recorded the inadmissibility of some of the practices that aim at changing the status quo of Jerusalem, the future of which should be the subject of the forthcoming Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the final position of the Palestinian territories.

Rest assured, Your Majesty, that Russia, as one of the co-sponsors of the peace process, will remain committed to the same principles. As soon as we heard of this regrettable decision by the Israeli Government the Russian side expressed its position in an official statement released in connection with this issue, rejecting Israel's actions and calling on Israel to reconsider its attitude. We also held urgent contacts with the Israeli Government in this regard. We gave instructions to our permanent representative at the United Nations to cooperate closely with the Palestinian mission and the other Arab missions in New York within the framework of this urgent problem.

With my utmost appreciation of the role that your majesty assumes within the Arab and Islamic groups, and in accordance with the longstanding and friendly nature of Russian-Moroccan relations, I would like to reaffirm to you our true desire to continue the dialogue with your majesty.

Sudan

Kenya President Moi Pays Official Visit

Arrives With Delegation

EA2405195095 Khartoum SUNA in French
1615 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 24 May (SUNA) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi has just [words indistinct] this afternoon for a one-day visit to Sudan heading his country's high-powered delegation.

[Words indistinct] welcomed at the airport by the president of the Republic, General 'Umar al-Bashir, a number of ministers and officials and ambassadors from African [words indistinct].

During his visit President Moi will hold discussions with Gen. al-Bashir on bilateral relations and ways of making progress in the peace process in southern Sudan within the African countries' IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative.

Views IGADD, 'Common Goals'

EA2505113095 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
0400 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] HE [His Excellency] President Daniel arap Moi yesterday [24 May] emphasized that Kenya strongly upholds the principles of good-neighborliness and noninterference of internal affairs of other states. He said that there was no alternative to cooperation between neighboring countries, adding that such cooperation can only be exercised in a climate of mutual trust, forthrightness, and transparency. The president stressed that it should be everyone's commitment to collectively find solutions should problems arise between countries. President Moi said, however, that it was unfortunate that in this region some events point in the opposite direction.

The president was speaking last night at the Republic Palace in Khartoum during a state dinner hosted in his honor by President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan. [passage omitted]

On the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] peace initiatives for the Sudan, President Moi assured the world that the peace talks were continuing at different levels and expressed optimism that a lasting solution was realizable. President Moi said four crucial sessions of talks have taken place in Nairobi and consultations have continued at summit and standing committee levels. [passage omitted]

On the relations between Kenya and the Sudan, President Moi expressed Kenya's desire to nurture the bonds of friendship and fraternity as a shining example to others in the continent. President Moi said Kenya and the Sudan have common goals and objectives to develop their countries and region for the benefit of their people. [passage omitted]

Urges, Achieves Cease-Fire Extension

EA2505162595 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1300 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese Government today agreed to an extension of another two months of cease-fire following President Daniel arap Moi's request, who has been on a two-day state visit to that country. In a joint communique signed by President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan and President Moi today at Khartoum Friendship Hall, the two heads of state reiterated their conviction and commitment to IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiatives and the imperative of reactivating the peace process. They said the cease-fire, brokered by President Moi, is a practical demonstration of Sudan's commitment to peace and the creation of conducive environment for the reactivation of the peace process. President al-Bashir commended the noble and responsible role displayed by President Moi as the chairman of the IGADD committee toward peace settlement in the Sudan. President al-Bashir expressed his government's full confidence in President Moi's capability as chairman of IGADD peace initiative. He further briefed President Moi on the current effort by his government to restore stability in the southern Sudan and to build a strong foundation of peace from within the IGADD initiative. The two presidents held extensive talks that covered bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. They emphasized the need to enhance bilateral cooperation between their two countries' peace process and the IGADD initiative as well as the situation pertaining to the subregion and Africa at large. They further directed their foreign ministers to ensure the holding of the joint ministerial committee in July 1995 to deal with all issues of mutual benefit to the two countries. The two leaders recalled the positive conclusion of the recently held IGADD summit in Addis Ababa and expressed satisfaction over the current efforts to revitalize IGADD as a subregional vehicle for cooperation and integration. The two heads of state called on the international community to assist IGADD member states in these endeavors. The two leaders later held a press conference where they answered questions from members of the press mainly on the peace initiative in the Sudan.

**Official Lauds Malawi Offer To Mediate With
Uganda**

*EA2505120595 Khartoum SUNA in French
1620 GMT 24 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 24 May — 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary at the ministry, on Tuesday [23 May] announced that Sudan warmly welcomed all initiatives aimed at normalizing relations with Uganda, notably the initiative by the Malawian president in that respect.

During [words indistinct] Mr. Baridu said the message received recently by General al-Bashir from the Malawian president on his initiative on the normalization of relations between Sudan and Uganda, and affirmed that Sudan was ready to cooperate with the Malawian president in that respect. [sentence as received]

Mr. Baridu said the deterioration of relations between Sudan and Uganda was Uganda's responsibility, and he voiced the hope that regional and international efforts in this context would restore good relations between the two countries.

Commenting on the visit by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi to Sudan planned for Wednesday [24 May] Mr. Baridu said it was in the framework of international concern for the initiative of IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] countries to seek a solution to the southern Sudanese conflict. He also referred to recent visits to Sudan by the Dutch minister for international cooperation and the Malawian foreign minister.

Bahrain

Opposition Claims Prisoner Tortured to Death

NC2505172395 Paris AFP in English
1547 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 25 (AFP) — A member of the Bahraini opposition, Muhammad Muhammad Shahab al-Fardan, has been tortured to death in prison, a Bahraini opposition group said Thursday [25 May].

Al-Fardan, 20, was "martyred" in a "dreaded" prison in the Bahraini capital, Manama, on Wednesday, the outlawed Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said in a statement sent to AFP.

His body was delivered to his family but the authorities prevented a crowd from attending the funeral, the group added, without giving further details.

Kuwait

Iranian Envoy on Continental Shelf Resolution

95LH0141A Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 20 Apr 95
p 5

["Text" of interview with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ghulam 'Aly San'aty by Ghazy al-Jasem; place and date not given: "The Iranian Ambassador to AL-QABAS: We Are Ready To Resolve The Continental Shelf Problems With Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [al-Jasem] Kuwaiti-Iranian relations have developed positively in the past few years. How do you view the future of relations between the two countries?

[San'aty] [passage omitted] Recently there have been several high-level visits to Kuwait. Muhammad Hashemy Rafsanjany, deputy Iranian Foreign Minister, visited Kuwait. He is the brother of the president of the republic, and his visit was an important turning point for mutual understanding between the two countries and strengthening bilateral relations. Hashemy outlined Iranian positions on both regional and international issues for Kuwaiti officials. Both sides made appropriate decisions to develop bilateral relations. The Iranian Deputy Education Minister also visited Kuwait, and we signed a memorandum of understanding regarding issues of scientific and educational cooperation. Shaykh-al-Islam, Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs, also visited Kuwait; during his visit, side meetings were held to improve mutual understanding between the two countries. During this period, we succeeded in holding the Iranian cultural fair in Kuwait, where we displayed aspects of Iranian culture in film production, animation, carpet manufacture, and calligraphy.

Last week was the most important visit of an Iranian official to Kuwait. The president of the legislative authority, Nateq Nury, visited Kuwait with a high-level parliamentary and government delegation, along with the head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and his assistant, the governor of Fars province, an economic and media delegation, and the head of the Kuwaiti-Iranian friendship committee. [passage omitted]

Multiple Fields for Cooperation

[Al-Jasem] Were specific programs proposed to be implemented?

[San'aty] There is a bilateral policy committee chaired by the deputy foreign ministers of both countries. It began working actively after the exchange of visits. From the committee chairman on the Kuwaiti side, Sulayman Majed al-Shahin, we sensed the desire to develop bilateral cooperation in all fields. In addition, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad gave instructions to further the committee's activities.

On the economic and commercial level, we should note that bilateral trade last year reached \$100 million, not counting the petroleum derivatives that Iran imports from Kuwait. Actually, neither country has accurate figures for the amount of trade. We have asked Kuwait to determine the figures and statistics for bilateral trade, and we expect the number to be larger than the one previously mentioned. During Nateq Nury's visit, the delegation members were made aware of Kuwait's capabilities, and we informed the Kuwaitis of Iran's capabilities.

In addition, Kuwait imports fruits, vegetables, fish, carpets, home and hand tools, and industrial products from Iran. Nateq Nury's visit may have made it clear that the trend in Iran is toward strengthening relations with Kuwait, since Nury is the head of a public authority in Iran.

Iraq in Saddam's Shadow

[Al-Jasem] How does Iran view the situation in Iraq? In your view, what is Iraq's future?

[San'aty] [passage omitted] We want Kuwait always to be an independent and stable nation with a role in the region. We do not desire any geographic changes in the region, and particularly not the partitioning or breaking up of Iraq. However, as a result of what it is currently going through, we do not feel that there is an auspicious future for Iraq. Therefore, it is best for the nations of the region to cooperate with one another so that there will be a regime in Iraq acceptable to the Iraqi people. The regions' nations should support the regime that enjoys the Iraqi people's acceptance so as to rid the regions'

peoples of this anxiety and the Iraqi people of this nightmare. Iraq's rulers regrettably are refusing even the United Nations' offer to purchase food for their people. This regime has no commitment to implementing the resolutions issued by the United Nations. Saddam does not even implement the resolutions he himself issues or signs. Every day they say something different, which indicates that it is impossible to trust this regime. Saddam imposed himself on Iraq by force after Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. [passage omitted]

We are ready to cooperate with the nations of the region to enable the Iraqi people to rid themselves of this regime, so that stability will prevail in the regions' nations.

Concern Over the Turkish Incursion

[Al-Jasem] What about the entry of Turkish troops into northern Iraq? Has the Iranian mediation among the warring Kurdish groups achieved anything? Doesn't the entry of Turkish forces concern you?

[San'aty] Yes, we are deeply concerned about the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq, because this is weakening the Iraqi opposition forces. The Saddam regime is the one that benefits from the entrance of the Turkish forces. For this reason, we wanted to see cooperation among the Kurdish political parties in northern Iraq, because their infighting is providing the excuse for intervention in northern Iraq. Iranian efforts are ongoing to mediate among the Kurdish parties to bring their views closer together.

[Al-Jasem] The Turkish Government says that it informed the Iranian government of the date it would enter northern Iraq. What do you think?

[San'aty] Yes, we were informed of this. However, this is no excuse for their intervening with a force of this size and level. We had thought that the matter involved only the Kurdistan Workers' Party, not an incursion into Iraqi territory.

Demonizing Iran

[Al-Jasem] What about the problem of the nuclear reactors and the associated contracts with Russia? What about the U.S. embargo of Iran? How do you view this issue?

[San'aty] This is one of the problems that Iran is facing. We believe that all the world's nations must respect the resolutions of international organizations, particularly those who founded them. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency have visited Iran several times and have inspected nuclear reactor sites. After their visits, they announced that all the Ira-

nian installations were designed for peaceful purposes, not military. America, however, wants to make other nations fearful of Iran's nuclear programs. We do not want permission from anyone. The Iranian people will remain united in their will to build these programs.

Economic Challenges

[Al-Jasem] What about the economic challenges that the Iranian Government is facing, the high rate of unemployment, and the decrease in per capita income? How will you deal with these difficulties?

[San'aty] In all of the world's economies there are problems resulting from war. These challenges are great, especially because we are trying to convert our country from a consumer nation to a producer nation.

We are supporting the productive forces so we can sell commodities in the marketplace through competition; therefore, we are passing through these difficult phases. Positive results were obtained with regard to the infrastructure through the first five-year plan, and we are ready to start the second five-year plan. We hope to realize its goals; our aim is to work, produce, and consume without depending on oil as an income source. The second five-year plan is more ambitious, and some countries are participating in implementing many of the second five-year plan's items. We are undertaking many different activities in this plan; therefore, it is natural that there should be a rise in prices and inflation and a fall in the national currency.

This is natural after any war. At the end of the first five-year plan we paid foreign debts that Iran had incurred to finance the plan. Some of the parties that had carried out jobs as part of the plan began to ask for payment in accordance with the deadlines, and thus the problems began.

These are crucial issues, and we hope that all Islamic nations will be able to implement their programs and reach self-sufficiency.

The Continental Shelf

[Al-Jasem] What about the continental shelf and fishing issues between Kuwait and Iran? Have you discussed these issues with the Kuwaiti Government?

[San'aty] During Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Hashemy's visit, it was agreed to discuss the continental shelf issues between Kuwait and Iran. I spoke with the Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister and asked him to appoint the Kuwaiti negotiating team to began working with the Iranian side.

We are waiting for Kuwait to appoint the legal and technical experts. There are no disputes between Kuwait

and Iran. We must say that the maritime borders with Kuwait are not delineated.

Deputy Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Yusuf al-Khurfy is scheduled to visit Iran in the near future. Through this visit we hope to build bridges of cooperation between both countries' Coast Guards.

We hope the negotiations will begin as soon as possible to delineate the continental shelf. We also hope that the other Gulf nations will participate in these negotiations.

Saudi Arabia

Internal Debt Said To Total \$80 Billion

NC2505205695 Paris AFP in English
1507 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 25 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has completed payments on a 4.5 billion dollar loan to help pay for the 1991 Gulf War, but owes 80 billion dollars in internal debts to cover its budget deficit, bankers said here Thursday [25 May].

An official with the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the largest Arab bank, said "the last installment of 900 million dollars was made on May 22" for the 4.5 billion loan, the only one the kingdom ever obtained on foreign markets.

The loan was underwritten in 1991 by a group of banks led by Morgan Stanley and including the Bahrain-based ABC, a banker said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, met the reimbursement schedule of five installments, he added.

But bankers told AFP that the kingdom's internal debt, run up from loans on the local financial market and

unpaid debts to Saudi and foreign businessmen, had grown to 300 billion riyals (80 billion dollars).

Struggling with a budget deficit since 1983, Riyadh has been issuing treasury bonds since 1988. In 1993 alone the government raised 15 billion dollars from local markets, a banker said.

In March King Fahd announced procedures to pay off part of the four to five billion dollars owed to some 120 local and foreign businessmen when he presented the 1995 budget.

According to the Saudi treasury, the 1995 budget was cut to 4 billion dollars, down from 10.6 billion in 1994, after a campaign of belt-tightening including the selling off of public enterprises and the slicing of government expenses.

The fall in oil prices in the 1980s and the 55-billion-dollar price tag paid by Saudi Arabia for the 1991 liberation of Kuwait threw the budget into chronic deficit.

But now rising oil prices are providing some relief to the kingdom's coffers.

A barrel of oil stabilized around 17.4 dollars for the first four months of the year before topping 18 dollars, up from an average of around 15.53 dollars in 1994.

King Fahd announced on January 9 that the country's foreign debt had been reduced from 40 billion to 15 billion dollars, mostly owed to U.S. and other companies which sold it weapons and equipment for civilian projects, bankers said.

Opposition Cites 'Abortive' Attempt To Kill Saddam

JN2505192195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1900 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi opposition has said that security personnel arrested many Iraqi citizens following an abortive assassination attempt against Saddam Husayn during a visit to Samarra' on 14 May.

It is to be recalled that several days ago, Saddam Husayn dismissed his half brother and interior minister, Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti, and replaced him with Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq.

Mass Arrests Detailed

NC2505202695 Paris AFP in English
1833 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, May 25 (AFP) — Senior Iraqi Armed Forces officers have been detained in a wave of arrests following an attempt to kill President Saddam Husayn, a group of opposition parties said Thursday [25 May].

The Iraqi National Congress (INC) named nine people among 43 arrested after what it said was an attempt to kill the president when he visited the tomb of the Imam 'Ali Hadi at Samarra', 120 kilometres (74 miles) north of Baghdad.

Saddam escaped injury because an 'aide discovered before he arrived at the tomb of the imam, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad who is venerated particularly by Shiites, that the site was "entirely bobby-trapped", the INC said.

In a statement sent to AFP, the Congress, which includes several opposition groups based in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, said the president continued on his way to his home town of Tikrit farther north after the discovery.

The security services, meanwhile, began rounding up senior officials and other prominent people in Samarra', it said.

Those arrested after the assassination attempt on May 14 included two air force generals, Yunus 'Atallah al-Samarra'i and Yasin Jasim al-'Abbud, and two intelligence captains, 'Abbud Ahmad al-Samarra'i and Majid Shakir 'Ali al-Samarra'i, they said.

The al-Samarra'i family, whose origins are in Samarra', also includes General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, a former military intelligence chief who joined the INC at the end of 1994.

'Udayy's Double Survives UK Assassination Attempt

MM2505161295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 25 May 95 p 4

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah: "'Udayy Saddam Husayn's Double Target of Assassination Attempt in London"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A British Scotland Yard spokeswoman yesterday confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the police are thoroughly investigating a complaint by Iraqi national Latif Yahya about an attempt on his life in the center of the British capital London in which he escaped injury but his companion Sufyan al-Samarra'i suffered stab wounds.

The spokeswoman denied that there had been any arrests by the police in connection with the assault, carried out late the night before last by persons unknown in a side road off the Edgware Road, considered one of the main areas of concentration of the Arab community in Britain.

Latif Yahya confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he was attacked by five people, one of them carrying a gun which was fired several times and another carrying a knife. As he was leaving his car, Yahya was attacked by five people, three of them speaking with an Iraqi accent, a fourth with a Moroccan accent, and the fifth with African features.

Al-Samarra'i threw himself at Yahya to protect him from the attack and was himself stabbed by a knife. Al-Samarra'i was later taken to a hospital where he is still receiving treatment. Although the police spokeswoman denied knowledge of the circumstances of the attack, saying only that the investigation is still in progress and refusing to say if the incident was an assassination attempt or just an assault incident, Yahya emphasized that what happened was an assassination attempt and that it was not the first attempt made on him, after the attempt in Austria a few months ago.

The Austrian police had disarmed a time bomb found in Yahya's car after family neighbors reported seeing suspicious characters fiddling with the car which was parked near his home in the capital, Vienna.

Yahya's wife said that her husband decided to move with his family from Austria to London after the car bomb incident because he no longer felt safe with his wife and two young children.

It should be recalled that Yahya was the person chosen in 1987 by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, son of the Iraqi president, to act as his double because of the extreme resemblance between the two. He did in fact stand in for him on many local occasions, especially sports

occasions and troop inspections on the front lines during the Kuwait war.

Opposition Claims Public Security Chief Dismissed
NC2505145695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports in Baghdad confirm that Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Tikriti was dismissed from his post as chief of public security on Tuesday [23 May], one day after his brother Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti was dismissed from the post of interior minister. These reports say it is likely that Rafi' Dahham al-Tikriti, the Saddam regime's current ambassador to Turkey, or 'Abd Hasan al-Majid, assistant to the former chief of the Intelligence Department, will be appointed to the position of the chief of public security.

Earlier reports noted that Saddam Husayn had sharply criticized Sab'awi, who recently had dedicated his time to his private affairs and farms in the area of [place name indistinct].

'Major Rapprochement' Seen Developing With Iran
MM2505141495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Rapprochement Between Iraq and Iran To Confront United States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Diplomatic sources in Amman have said that the Iranian political delegation's visit to Baghdad, which ended yesterday and was blacked out by the Iraqi Government, resulted in preparing the atmosphere for a visit to the Iraqi capital by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The sources said that Velayati could visit Baghdad within days.

The sources stressed that a major rapprochement has begun to develop between the two countries vis-a-vis eliminating some of the areas of disagreement that poisoned relations, especially the POW issue, in order to confront the U.S. containment policy against the two countries and the embargo imposed on them.

The sources did not rule out that recent assassination operations against some opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq elements in Baghdad could be one of the fruits of this rapprochement. They said that that is a message to the Iranian opposition to reduce its opposition activities against the regime in Tehran and to move to other areas.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned from Iraqi sources that the Iraqi Government has begun to tire of U.S. procrastination as regards lifting the embargo, and that it has informed Rolf Ekeus, head of the international inspection teams, that his next visit will be his last.

The sources said that the Iraqi hard line, which has begun to escalate gradually, could be reinforced further under a strategic agreement with Iran in order to confront the United States. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Refutes 'Allegations' on Missing Kuwaitis

JN2505200295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 25 May (INA) — Iraq today officially exposed the Kuwaiti rulers' allegations on the issue of missing persons, noting that the Kuwaiti side cancelled a meeting that was scheduled to be held on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border at the last moment without any justification.

This came in a letter sent today by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, to the UN Security Council president, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee. Ambassador Hamdun requested that the letter be distributed as an official UN Security Council document.

The letter refutes the Kuwaiti rulers' allegations that Iraq refused to sign the minutes of the three-way committee in Geneva in April. The letter says that all parties, including Kuwait, did not sign the minutes.

In its letter to the UN Security Council president, Iraq added that the meetings of the three-way committee and the technical subcommittee proved the contrary of Kuwait's allegations. It was proved that 230 files of missing Kuwaitis were dealt with and that the technical subcommittee dealt with 168 files since its establishment on 8 January 1994. This was announced by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

The letter stresses that Iraq has not violated its commitments under Paragraphs 30 and 31 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 at all. It says that Iraq cooperated faithfully, something which resulted in Kuwait's closure of four of its files after being discussed by Iraq.

The letter explains that the Iraqi authorities also handed the remains of a dead Kuwaiti who had been counted among the missing. Iraq continues to demand that the files of other missing persons who had been proved dead in various incidents be closed.

The letter says that the Kuwaiti regime refuses to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities on technical matters and obstructs the work of the technical subcommittee for political objectives aimed at perpetuating the unjust blockade against Iraq even though that will result in prolonging the suffering of the families of missing Kuwaitis.

Iraq stressed its readiness to return any found item proved to belong to Kuwait through the UN coordinator for returning properties. Iraq noted that the return of destroyed military equipment, which started on 22 April, is continuing.

Editorial Views Anniversary of Kurdish Problem

95LH0126A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
11 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[Editorial by Salah al-Mukhtar: "On 11 March Anniversary: After One-Half Century's Voyage, Where Has Kurdish Issue Reached"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is certain that our celebration of the current 11 March anniversary differs totally from the way we celebrated it in past years. Despite the Kurdish people's current tragedy, the likes of which they have never experienced throughout their past history, fundamental facts that they needed urgently in past decades to decide numerous vague and controversial issues have become crystal clear.

To understand the serious and important nature of the lessons of the past five years, which became totally crystallized by the end of 1994, we must go back to the fundamental question that accompanied the emergence of the "Kurdish problem," namely: What is the nature of the original Kurdish movement and what are the goals on which this movement relied to polarize the popular Kurdish tendencies and the Arab and world public? If we review the literature of the Kurdish movement's various wings, we would find that it is an ethnic, right-seeking, and liberationist movement. The three words—ethnic, right-seeking, and liberationist—constitute the crux of the Kurdish issue. It is an ethnic movement because it has sought to wrest recognition of Kurds as a fraternal people sharing the homeland's soil with the Arab people on the basis of constitutional and actual equality. It is right-seeking because it emanated from the idea of working to achieve specific objectives whose attainment confirms application of the principle of equal rights within the State of Iraq. The most significant of these rights is recognition of the Kurdish language, the Kurds' political role, and the Kurdish culture and the socioeconomic development of the Iraqi Kurdistan. Finally, it is a liberationist movement because it proclaimed its condemnation of colonialism, imperialism, and aggressive racist movements, led by Zionism.

Within the context of this definition, secession from Iraq has not been projected as an item in the Iraqi Kurdish movement's program. Rather, there has been Kurdish consensus on a slogan raised more than three decades ago. This slogan says "self-rule for the Kurds and

democracy for Iraq" despite the presence of secessionist tendencies within this or that wing or this or that figure. Moreover, the Kurdish movement's liberationist character, in theory, has not stopped some Kurdish elements from contacting imperialist, reactionary, or Zionist forces on the pretext that "they need help, even if it comes from the devil!"

Thus, steel determinants—such as the refusal to secede from Iraq, the struggle for rights within the framework of Iraqi national unity, and working as part of the regional and international liberation movement—were formed at the theoretical level and they have determined the Kurdish movement's official course. Naturally, this liberationist characteristic was aimed against imperialists and their lackeys, represented definitely in the United States, Britain, the Zionist entity, and some of the region's countries.

When a split developed in the first half of the 1960's within the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], which represented the main bloc in the Iraqi Kurdistan, we saw Jalal Talabani's tendency put distance between itself and Mustafa Barzani's tendency by alleging that it represents the "national liberationist leftist line" of the Kurdish movement.

On the basis of this allegation, Talabani held extensive contacts at the time with Arab leftist political forces to persuade them that he represented the Kurdish movement's left. He also contacted the Soviet Union and the communist bloc to persuade them that he represented the liberationist line that was hostile to U.S. imperialism.

This is crucial and fundamental information that we must recall now so we can realize the dimensions of the retreats and deviations that have occurred within the Kurdish movement, thus changing the character and goals of some of its leaders. Perhaps the first thing to be noted in this regard is that the response of some Kurdish leaders to the self-rule plan presented by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in the early 1970's was cool, reluctant, and charged with contradictions! The plan for complete self-rule caught the Kurdish side by surprise because this side had focused more on cultural rights than on self-rule. Moreover, the Kurdish side found itself faced with very difficult options: Self-rule was a historic opportunity, which the Kurdish people had awaited for many decades that had abounded with torture and persecution. In this capacity, the plan was a gain that one could not conceive being wasted. Thus, we saw major tendencies on the Kurdish side decide their position and opt to cooperate with the central government honestly to establish self-rule. However, other major tendencies realized that self-rule would mean putting an end to the

abnormal condition in the Iraqi Kurdistan and letting the Kurdish people enjoy their full ethnic and political rights within the framework of a united and free Iraq. This situation would have confronted the latter tendencies with the option of severing their secret regional and international ties and losing the moral and material gains that they were getting as a result of the presence of troubles in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

Thus, a split developed within the Kurdish movement, coupled with the determination of one of the tendencies to resume the fighting, even though self-rule was passed as a decisive and fundamental solution to the Kurdish problem. So, contradiction surfaced between the official line of major tendencies of the Kurdish movement and their practical conduct. During the lengthy Iranian aggression against Iraq, these tendencies' position pushed contradiction between word and deed to a new level, which attracted the attention of the Kurdish people of Iraq before others. This is because the said tendencies turned into an instrument in the Iranian regime's hands, and they helped this regime invade Iraqi Kurdish areas after they had joined it openly and officially at the propaganda and human levels.

Many fair-minded Kurds have asked: How could these tendencies place themselves and their capabilities in the direct, concerted, and public service of the Iranian regime during a major war between Iraq and Iran, even though this regime is the enemy of all of Iraq? This question was followed by this very intelligent question: Assuming that there is a justification to take sides with Iran against Iraq in this war, which constitutes a very serious stance that threatens to torpedo the national tie of these tendencies, then it is certain that this justification can be nothing other than Iranian support for the Kurdish people's ethnic rights. Only in such a case one may, and we only say may, understand the Iraqi Kurds' alignment with Iran, considered from the Kurdish viewpoint. But the problem here is that Khomeyni's regime denies, as the shah's regime denied, Iran's Kurds their ethnicity, prohibits them from enjoying their ethnic rights, and is determined to reject their legitimate demands to establish a special Kurdish entity within Iran!

The danger of these Kurdish tendencies' support for Iran becomes more serious when we notice that Iraq established self-rule for the Kurds and actually guaranteed their constitutional rights for the first time in the history of all of the region's Kurds. Therefore, the support these tendencies gave Iran against Iraq has proven that their claim that they represent the Kurdish people and their aspirations is not a serious claim.

The 30-state aggression against Iraq provided the decisive and irrefutable evidence of the presence of a serious

and disgraceful contradiction between the allegation that certain Kurdish tendencies are Iraqi and liberationist in character and the action of these tendencies. This action has put them in the anti-Iraq line in the most serious war of annihilation to which Iraq has been subjected throughout its history. These tendencies have strengthened the course that has deviated from their original line as an Iraqi liberationist movement, surrendering themselves to the United States, the Zionist entity, and neighboring countries, both Arab and foreign. They [?have] no role other than to carry out the instructions of others.

At a time when Iraq was waging the war of survival, of identity, and of the future against the dirtiest colonialist and imperialist forces who are most hostile to peoples and their independence and against the lackey forces following them, these tendencies "volunteered" and became a "fifth column" that staged a rebellion, protected by imperialist arms, to separate the north from the great Iraqi homeland. The page of betrayal and treason in the north has exposed the liberationist and nationalist allegations of these particular tendencies. They have surfaced as subservient forces that carry out the orders of the United States and the Zionist entity without discussion or objection, keeping in mind that the entire world is aware that the U.S. policy toward Iraq in particular represents the worst kind of the revived old colonialism and that the United States is working for a world dominated by darkness, reaction, and oppression.

These tendencies were not content to turn into a "fifth column" directly and openly serving the enemy in a state of war. They also failed to exploit a historic chance granted them by the Iraqi leadership in wake of the 1991 cease-fire. At the time, a serious dialogue was launched, and it produced a comprehensive agreement on the province of Iraqi Kurdistan. This accord reinforced the March agreement and filled up some of its gaps. However, they backed down on the agreement and carried arms anew against the Iraqi homeland as a result of "U.S. orders." In that period, contradiction between word and deed reached a very strange level when one of the rebellion leaders called for separating the Iraqi Kurdistan from Iraq and tying it to Turkey, as if Turkey's Kurds enjoy rights equal to those of Iraq's Kurds! The entire world, especially the Kurds, were shocked by this call because the world realizes that Turkey's Kurds are not recognized as an ethnic group and have not even been viewed as a minority that has its rights. Rather, Turkey's Kurds have been viewed as "mountain Turks."

This sad and tragic chain of developments concerning the shift by certain Kurdish tendencies from the original position of the Kurdish movement as an ethnic, liberationist, right-seeking movement to a position of sub-

servience to foreign regional and international powers that are hostile to the Kurdish people and their national liberation movement—this chain has aroused suspicions around these tendencies' leaders, has isolated them from the main Kurdish popular tendencies, and has turned them into purely elitist military blocs that survive only by virtue of foreign backing.

After more than four years of the U.S. colonization of Northern Iraq and after the United States has done all it can to entrench the north's separation from the Iraqi motherland, several fundamental facts have become crystal clear, and no degree of verbal abstraction or tactical rhetoric can conceal them, first, from the eyes of the Kurdish people of Iraq and, second, from the eyes of the rest of the world. The United States and its allies "promised" Iraq's Kurds "paradise" before the start of the aggression against Iraq. But what have they done in fact? Have they given the Kurds their ethnic rights? Have they protected them from annihilation by military means or by blockade and starvation? The answer is no. Despite its domination of Northern Iraq, the United States permits the annihilation of Kurds by encouraging "mafias" to murder and terrorize the civilian population to the extent that the cities of Iraq's Kurdistan are subjected to heavy artillery shelling for the first time in their history!

Under the umbrella of U.S. colonialism, 1994 and 1995 have witnessed the worst civil war in Iraq's Kurdistan. The United States could have put an immediate end to this war with a single gesture. But it has permitted the mass murder of the Kurdish people of Iraq to continue and it has released the mafias to damage, destroy, and kill. The United States has not been content with this but has also encouraged the Turkish Government to launch immense military campaigns against Turkey's and Iraq's Kurds and to stage extensive raids within Iraq to annihilate Kurds, both Iraqi and Turkish Kurds.

The worst position with the most serious indications lies in the U.S. determination to subject Iraq's Kurds to the fatal blockade that has made the Kurds' life dozens of times worse than the life of the rest of the Iraqi people, who enjoy guaranteed minimal food and medical care limits, a good degree of personal security, and a stable and strong general security that has amazed everybody. Many Kurds have rightfully wondered: If the United States and its allies "sympathize" with Iraq's Kurds, then why have they not provided them with food, drugs, services, and personal and general security?

U.S. President Bill Clinton has answered with full clarity numerous questions on the nature of the U.S. position toward the Kurds, saying that Turkey's Kurds must understand well that there is no place for their

secession and that they have to cooperate with the Turkish Government so it will grant them some of their cultural rights!

After this long tour of the "paradise of Kurdish secession and of the establishment of a separate Kurdish state" under the umbrella of bayonets of the United States and its allies, the United States says openly: There is no place for secession. There is no place for a separate Kurdish state. In the wake of this clear U.S. response, other extremely important positions followed: France, where some French figures nurtured the illusions of Kurdish secession, has explicitly told some rebel Kurdish leaders: Your only option is to negotiate with the legitimate Iraqi Government! Turkey, Iran, and Syria, which have cooperated with certain Kurdish tendencies to create anarchy and division in Northern Iraq, say there is no place for secession.

What has happened? How have some Iraqi Kurds been deceived and pushed to fall into the snares of the "major powers" and the region's minor powers? Where has the "experience" of tested Kurdish cadres—experience accumulated throughout more than half a century of political action—gone? Now, and after all the tragedies inflicted on Iraq's Kurds in particular and on the Iraqi people generally as a result of the Kurdish issue, the governments and forces that promoted internecine fighting among the brothers say, "O Kurds, you have no place except within Iraq. Negotiate with your government!" If "goodwill" existed and if those claiming to be "sympathetic" to Iraq's Kurds were sincere, would they not have been required not to embroil certain Kurdish tendencies in dangerous and fatal predicaments that have harmed both Kurds and Arabs most gravely?

We tell you, sons of our dear Kurdish people, it is an ordeal that we have undergone together and an experience by whose fires we have both been burnt. Is this enough for one to learn the lessons and the facts now, and before it is too late? Let every sincere Kurd remember the facts crystallized by the years of oppression, U.S. colonization, and regional intervention, led by the fact that the Kurds' problems, whatever their nature, will never be solved by foreign forces but by honest, sincere, and serious national dialogue. Only on the soil of Kurdistan's mountains and of al-Basrah's plains and the central plains will the flowers of national unity, prosperity, and the enjoyment of ethnic rights grow.

We have all, regardless of our tendencies, become certain that the international and regional forces have given thought only to using the Kurdish card as an instrument of pressure, sabotage, and bargaining. This is why they have offered the Kurds nothing other

than suppression, death, and deprivation, even though they have been able and they continue to be able to give the Kurds happiness and to solve their problems, if they so wished! Is this enough to reexamine the mistakes and the destructive policies of some Kurdish tendencies that have become fully aware now that their role and their leaders are on their way to final liquidation in preparation for the rise of a new Kurdish tendency whose hands "have not been soiled!" Yes, the United States is making preparations now to terminate the traditional leaders of the rebel Kurdish tendencies because they are leaders that have been drained to the bone and that have turned into a heavy U.S. burden. The U.S. indifference to the war in Northern Iraq is nothing but evidence of the presence of such a U.S. scheme that is intended to intensify the Kurdish people's hatred for the current leaders and to push the people to accept any new leader that alludes to ending the fighting!

The 11 March anniversary passes in 1995 while the Iraqi people, with all their good forces, are practicing the process of crossing to the other bank—the bank where the blockade will be broken and the tyrannical imperialists defeated. This anniversary will be crowned this year with a major step or steps within this context [of crossing]. Will the national and liberationist tendency prevail among certain Kurdish leaders, and will they join the mother national Iraqi movement's sacred historical struggle for a liberated, democratic, united, and strong

Iraq? Or will they remain prisoners of the snares of the United States, the regional forces, and selfish tendencies, all of which will put them outside the movement of the reality and of history?

Let these leaders remember that the United States has no friends or allies. It changes them the way Hollywood's stars change their shirts. Let these leaders turn their attention to the region to see how the United States is ridding itself of those who cooperated with it now that they have become hated and isolated leaders. We find it likely that the next step in Northern Iraq—a step that will precede or coincide with escalation of the battle to break the blockade—is the step of giving prominence to new Kurdish leaders on the debris, remains, and corpses of the old leaders. We are sounding the alarm now, and we say that Iraq's bosom is big enough. Nobody will embrace you from now on except the bosom of the united, strong, and liberated Iraq. Cast away the burdens of the "embroilment" phase and take part in the battle of crossing and of breaking the blockade. The river to be crossed has enough water to wash away all sins. But if you choose to stay under the U.S. umbrella, then you will find no place for yourselves in the Iraqi national train when the blockade is broken, and you will find that the U.S. train has departed and has not waited for you.

Peres Comments on Resumption of Talks With Syria

TA2505173195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 May 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem; date not given — recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles; transcribed from the English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Peres] Well, considering the alternatives, namely the interruption of the negotiations, it's clearly an important decision.

[Correspondent] But how is this going to affect the peace process in general?

[Peres] Well, it's one step further in the direction of the peace negotiations. It's not yet the decisive one, and it doesn't answer all the remaining questions, but it is a move, and a long road is made of small moves.

[Correspondent] But this move seems to be quite significant. What is the context of it, how quickly can it move forward from here?

[Peres] It's very hard to say. Depends on the nature of the negotiations; depends on the capacity to find a middle road, and all this remains to be answered in the future.

[Correspondent] The peace process is quite a complicated [word indistinct] problem, I would say. Won't it be possible that the Syrians will connect the progress on their side with progress with the Palestinian side, and thus bog down the peace process?

[Peres] I don't think so; I don't think so. I don't think it will be interconnected, I think every party will negotiate its own issue.

Views Price of Peace With Syria

TA2605075395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 95 p A2

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah 'Tai]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The price we will have to pay Syria in exchange for peace is the same price we paid Egypt, although it does not have to be exactly identical. We can drag the negotiations with Syria on for another 10 years, but will this mean that Syria will settle for less than what Egypt received from us according to the precedent determined by the Likud? I do not know any Syrian that is willing to receive less than what Egypt received.

"We have one demand of Syria, and that is that the agreement with them put an end to war." This was stated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a political

briefing to the Labor Party Standing Committee at Bet Berl yesterday.

Peres sharply criticized the position presented by the Third Way Movement, under which it is possible to achieve peace with Syria without a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Peres said: "This is tantamount to making peace without the Arabs, or making peace without peace." [passage omitted]

Peres said that in his opinion it will be more difficult to attain a peace agreement with Syria in 1996 than in 1995, therefore 1995 is the year that will decide whether a peace agreement with Syria will be achieved before the elections.

Peres added: "I cannot guarantee that we will achieve an agreement with Syria by the end of 1995, but I am convinced we must not hesitate and must not allow the chances for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East to slip between our fingers. None of us will be forgiven if our children one day learn that it was possible to put an end to war in the Middle East and that we stuck to slogans and escaped the big decisions. There are no tricks here, we have here two truths and we must choose one: remaining on the Golan Heights means giving up peace."

The foreign minister said the Golan Heights is like Gaza: neither Gaza nor the Golan Heights are "sacred land." Peres assessed that elections in the territories will be held by the end of the year. "People here feel, and rightly so, that we are gaining historically while losing politically. But historical gains are no small matter. I believe that if we take political risks we will come out victorious."

In his briefing, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hardly broached the Syrian track. Rabin said the government intends to continue with the move it has started by completing the agreement with the Palestinians, strengthening and advancing the agreement with Jordan, and striving to achieve an agreement with Syria and Lebanon. He said that by March 1996 — the date scheduled for the Labor Party Convention — the political picture will become much clearer.

Rabin said that progress in the negotiations with Syria will bring about a change in the Middle East and will open up the Arab world to Israel — a development which has suffered a certain setback recently and which can now be resumed if the peace process in the region picks up.

Tzali Reshef and Avraham Katz-'Oz, both of them Peres' associates, proposed that the upcoming party convention on 5 June call on the government to evacuate Netzarim, Kfar Darom, and other settlements by the

interim arrangement stage, in the framework of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Knesset Member 'Imanu'el Zismann sharply criticized this proposal, saying it contradicts the Oslo accords. [passage omitted]

Further on Remarks on Syrian Talks

TA2605080095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 26 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ge'ula Even and Itay Engel; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Even] Minister Peres, for the benefit of those who are not sure they understand what you meant yesterday when you said that the price for peace with Syria will be the same price we have paid for peace with Egypt — does this mean a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, just as was the case in the Sinai?

[Peres] No. I stated the price, but I did not specify the lines, because we have to negotiate the lines. In all my statements I take great care not to specify the geographic line, and yesterday too I avoided this. At the same time, however, I thought it was necessary to tell the public the inescapable truth, because as you know, people can come up with imaginary cures.

[Engel] Minister Peres, even if you are deeply convinced that there is no other way to obtain this peace except by withdrawing from the Golan Heights, do you not think that from the negotiations point of view it would have been more judicious to keep this conviction close to your chest rather than publicly heralding it, thus eroding our bargaining power vis-a-vis Syria — seeing that we have now admitted our willingness to return the Golan Heights?

[Peres] Look, every Syrian, Israeli, and Egyptian knows full well that we have made peace with Egypt and what the price of this agreement was. It is not a big secret. Some people in Israel are trying to escape this truth, however, and we must not allow them to do this. What does this have to do with the negotiations?

[Even] We have returned the entire Sinai. Does this mean we will have to return the entire Golan Heights?

[Peres] I am not obliged to say so. I said the situation here is not necessarily identical.

[Even] Minister Peres, do you believe that in the wake of the resumption of discussions on the security arrangements we should implement the referendum on the issue?

[Peres] No, we have still not reached any agreement. We have decided to resume the discussions, but we have

still not concluded the discussions, and there is a big difference here. Moreover, we have to remember that the security issue, albeit central, is in no way the only issue. There are three or four more issues which will also determine the success or failure of the negotiations.

[Engel] Minister Peres, what are we debating at this point: the depth of demilitarization on both sides of the border, the restrictions regarding the deployment of forces on both sides of the border, flight zones, training? Where precisely do you see the main bone of contention?

[Peres] We have still not reached these negotiations. The problem is as follows: Israel agrees to equality in security if this means that as a result of the overall and comprehensive negotiations both Israel and Syria attain security. We do not propose that Syria exist under any kind of threat, just as Israel should not exist under any threat. The problem is how to achieve this: Syria says that in order to attain this equality we should implement equal steps, that is, any geographic movement should be equal. Obviously, this is totally unreasonable. If, for example, we return the mountain [hahar], half of it, or a quarter of it, is there an additional mountain for attaining equality? The very fact that we are dividing up the mountain, demilitarizing it, or returning a large part of it already creates a situation of inequality. Consequently it is impossible to measure territory only in terms of its size; we also have to take into consideration its height — which in this case is no less significant than its size.

[Even] You know, Minister Peres, that the Golan settlers are very angry at the way you and the prime minister are conducting the negotiations with Syria. They say that you simply sowed disinformation. You have recently said that the negotiations are stuck and that you are pessimistic, when in fact what we are seeing is significant progress.

[Peres] First, we have constantly given the true facts. I do not know about any disinformation. We have always depicted the true situation. Second, I have a deep respect for the Golan settlers and their anger deeply saddens me. When I think, however, about the anger of the next generation's children when they learn that we could have attained peace but failed to do so, well, here we should try to decide which anger should take precedence. [passage omitted]

Bellin Sounds 'Cautionary Note' on Talks With Syria

TA2505181295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1505 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin sounded a cautionary note about getting either

excited or worried over the talks with Syria. We are talking about negotiations on the principles of the negotiations rather than about progress in the negotiations themselves, he said. This is not the substantive issue. If no breakthrough is attained at the highest political level, the deputy foreign minister asserted, we might not attain peace with the Syrians.

[Begin Beilin recording] If we continue at this pace and no procedural breakthrough that will enable negotiations at the highest political level is made, I am afraid that we will be unable to reach peace in 1995, and I believe that we will not be able to attain peace later.

Undoubtedly, the officers' meeting is important on at least two counts: The first has to do with the level of the participants. The meeting between General al-Shihabi and Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq was very important because it was the most senior encounter held up to that point between Israelis and Syrians.

The second has to do with substance. The ability of senior officers of both armies to discuss security arrangements can promote this issue which, as far as we are concerned, is the most important; I do not want to downplay its importance, God forbid. If we manage to reach an agreement concerning the security arrangements, I assume other issues will be easier. However, they will not be solved automatically, and we will need quite some time to solve them. [end recording]

Break Reported in Argentine Bombing Investigation
TA2505172995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 May 95 p 20

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Progress has been made in the investigation of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. According to a report received by the Foreign Ministry from Buenos Aires, investigators in Argentina are convinced they know the identity of three of the people who masterminded the bombing.

The break in the investigation is related to the arrest of seven suspects: five Lebanese and two Brazilian citizens. The seven were arrested about three months ago in Paraguay on suspicion of having been involved

in the bombing. Despite Argentina's extradition requests and attempts by friends to release them, the Paraguayan Police continue to hold them in custody.

A Paraguayan source quoted by an Argentine paper said that over \$500,000 had been deposited in a bank account in Paraguay in order to bribe senior officials and prevent the extradition of the seven to Argentina.

A source close to the investigation recounted that Jose Yaluk [name as transliterated], one of the judges involved in the arrest of the seven suspects, quit his job after receiving threats from Muslim extremists.

Carlos Monges Lopez, the Argentine judge handling the extradition request, has stated that the CIA and the Mosad said they are 90-percent certain that at least three of the seven were involved in the bombing. It was further claimed that the group included three other persons, whose identities are known, who managed to flee to Iran. Other investigators say that at least some of the arrested suspects are members of Hizballah.

Editor of Algerian Newspaper Pays Visit
TA2505153495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 May 95 p 20

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Tayyib Bal'ish, the editor of AL-WATAN, the most widely distributed newspaper in Algeria, has arrived on a visit to Israel. He said that he did not fear assassination by Muslim radicals upon his return home. "The outlawed Islamic groups have already sentenced me to death anyway," he explained, noting that "47 leading media figures have been murdered in Algeria over the past year."

Bal'ish came to Israel for the Arab-Israeli culture month, which is being held at Haifa's Bet Hagefen. The Government Press Office invited senior journalists from the Arab world to attend, but only a small number arrived, mainly from Egypt. A few journalists came from Jordan, one came from Qatar, and some senior Palestinian journalists from East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip came. [passage omitted]

Minister Welcomes Syrian-Israeli 'Understanding'*JN2405202195 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has welcomed reports to the effect that a Syrian-Israeli understanding was reached within the framework of the current peace talks between the two countries.

The foreign minister added that Syria has always stressed its strong desire for peace despite all the difficulties that have faced the direct and indirect Syrian-Israeli talks.

Daily Applauds 'Important' Step*JN2605074495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 May 95 pp 1, 18*

[Editorial: "Happy News From Occupied Heights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab parties to the peace process have welcomed the U.S. announcement of the Syrian-Israeli agreement on a framework of principles that paves the way for discussing bilateral security arrangements and the resumption of bilateral talks soon between ranking Syrian and Israeli military officials to discuss these arrangements.

Undoubtedly, the resumption of negotiations on the occupied Golan Heights is important, especially since completing the peace process on the stalemated Syrian-Israeli track is necessary to protect and bolster any progress made on the other Arab-Israeli tracks.

We are aware that there are still deep gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions, but the resumption of direct bilateral military contacts in the U.S. capital is an important initial step on a long road that may lead to a peaceful breakthrough on the Syrian track similar to what has been achieved on other tracks.

We have no doubt that making substantial progress on the Syrian-Israeli track will lead to similar progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track. Furthermore, such progress will provide new momentum for the stalemated peace process on the Palestinian track and will ensure that this peace is just and comprehensive, which is very important to Middle East peace.

We, together with all Arab brothers concerned with the success of the peace process, welcome the U.S. announcement on the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations on the level of ranking military officials. We think that this announcement, which was made following intensive U.S. contacts with ranking Syrian and Israeli officials, is good news the likes of which

are rarely heard on this negotiations track that has not witnessed progress thus far.

'Fruitful' Activity Seen Leading to Better Kuwaiti Ties*JN2405201995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
24 May 95 pp 1, 17*

[FBIS Translated Text] Signs of a relaxation in Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations have started to surface as a result of fruitful Jordanian diplomatic activity.

Foreign Ministry sources said that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday received a letter from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The sources said this is the second letter al-Kabariti has received in a short period of time that could lead to closer ties between the two countries.

Faysal al-Mukhayzam, head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission in Amman, delivered the first letter to al-Kabariti on the day preceding 'Id al-Adha. The contents of the letter were not disclosed at the time.

Finance Minister Details Request for Japanese Aid*JN2605075295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 May 95 pp 1, 18*

[Report by Chief Editor Dr. Nabil al-Sharif in Tokyo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah said the meetings held in the Japanese capital on the ministerial level and on the level of technical teams within the framework of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to Tokyo discussed economic issues and Jordan's financial requirements, to which much attention was given during this visit.

Prince Hasan discussed these issues intensively on all levels with officials in the Japanese capital. He added that Jordan's requests for financial assistance were warmly received by the Japanese side, which will seriously consider these requests. Japan will send a special delegation representing four Japanese bodies to Amman by mid-June to discuss Jordanian financial needs in detail.

Jardanah said Jordan requested a \$500 million loan over two years on very soft terms. The loan will be used to increase the kingdom's reserves, to finance development projects, and to support the Jordanian reform policies in various economic sectors.

The Jordanian side also requested an increase in the grants extended to Jordan, and there is a move to meet

this request by increasing the grants by \$50 million annually for several years. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister on GNP, Investment, Deficit

JN2205200995 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 22 May 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Planning Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf said that Jordan's overall economic performance last year showed considerable improvement than what it anticipated in the economic plan for the years 1993 to 1997.

She said in a statement to Jordan News Agency, PETRA, that the gross national product growth rate was 5.7 percent last year instead of 5.6 percent estimated by the plan. Dr. Khalaf said that the consumption rate dropped in 1994 to 95.5 percent of the GNP from 98 percent in 1993.

She added that the investment rate in 1994 was higher than the plan forecast and reached 28 percent of the GNP. Dr. Khalaf also pointed out that inflation rate last year set at 4 percent only due to effective financial policies adopted by the government.

The planning minister also said that deficit in the balance of payment dropped in 1994 for the first time in four years. She added that the national reserves of hard currency rose from \$1.6 billion in 1993 to \$1.7 billion in 1994 due to economic achievements and foreign assistance.

Industrial, Trade Cooperation Pact Signed With Iraq

JN2205171995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1140 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 22 May (INA) — The Federation of Iraqi Industries and the Amman Chamber of Industry today signed a document for activating industrial and trade cooperation between the two countries.

The document was signed by 'Adnan al-Qudsi, head of Federation of Iraqi Industries, for the Iraqi side, and by Khaldun Abu-Hassan, head of the Amman Chamber of Industry, for the Jordanian side.

At the conclusion of the meetings of the Higher Joint Industrial Iraqi-Jordanian Committee, the two sides agreed on an executive program for increased contracts

and deals between the two sides and for plans to provide Iraq with its needs of medical and food supplies.

The two sides agreed to hold the third meeting of the joint committee in Baghdad in October 1995.

Daily Welcomes 'Arafat Visit, Notes Greater Trust

JN2405072795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
24 May 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When he received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn made it clear that the Israeli Government's decision to suspend its confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem has stopped a torrent of negative fallout that could have created serious difficulties for those promoting peace on both sides of the divide.

While expressing satisfaction with the Israeli decision, King Husayn has not forgotten to highlight the special place Jerusalem has in the hearts of Arabs and Muslims. At the same time, his majesty the king warned of the dangers of not reaching a final solution to the problem of the holy city between the Palestinians and Israelis on the basis of the Oslo accord and the Washington Declaration.

No doubt, the intensive diplomatic efforts made over the past few days to force Israel to change its stand, particularly those made by the Jordanians and Palestinians, have promoted the common ground reflected by the convening of the meeting between King Husayn and 'Arafat, and strengthened the profound trust existing between the two political leaderships.

This was manifested in the appreciation and respect voiced by President Yasir 'Arafat in recognition of His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, and also in the reiteration by King Husayn that Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that any speculations or doubts to the contrary are baseless.

While welcoming the second visit by President 'Arafat since his takeover of the National Authority rule almost one year ago, and following with interest his meetings with his brother His Majesty King Husayn, we hope that this meeting, just like other previous meetings between the two, will lay an additional brick in the edifice of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which is getting stronger and loftier day by day.

Republican Decree Accepts Old Government's Resignation*NC2505141095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in 1340 Arabic 25 May GMT 95*

[Statement read by Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar at B'abda Presidential Palace in Beirut — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Republican Decree No. 6810 was issued today, accepting the resignation of the government led by Rafiq al-Hariri:

In accordance with the Constitution, notably Article 53, and the resignation of the government submitted by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, the president of the republic decrees the following:

Article 1: The resignation of the government led by Rafiq al-Hariri has been accepted.

Article 2: This decree shall be published and notification shall be made where necessary and shall become effective immediately on being issued.

B'abda, 25 May 1995

Signed: Ilyas al-Hirawi

Republican Decree Appoints al-Hariri Prime Minister*NC2505142795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1341 GMT 25 May 95*

[Statement read by Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar at B'abda Presidential Palace in Beirut — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Republican Decree No. 6811 was issued today, appointing Rafiq al-Hariri prime minister:

In accordance with the Constitution, notably Article 53, and in accordance with Republican Decree No. 6810 of 25 May 1995 accepting the resignation of the government led by Rafiq al-Hariri, the president of the republic decrees the following:

Article 1: Rafiq al-Hariri is appointed prime minister.

Article 2: This decree shall be published and notification shall be given where necessary, and it shall become effective immediately on being issued.

B'abda, 25 May 1995.

Signed: Ilyas al-Hirawi

Presidential Decree Naming New Government Issued*NC2505143995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1341 GMT 25 May 95*

[Statement read by Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar at B'abda Presidential Palace in Beirut — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Decree No. 6812 on the formation of the government:

In accordance with the Constitution, notably Article 53 thereof; in accordance with Decree No. 6811 dated 25 May 1995 naming Rafiq al-Hariri as prime minister; and on the recommendation of the prime minister, the president of the republic decrees the following:

Article 1: The following have been appointed:

Rafiq al-Hariri	prime minister and finance minister
Michel al-Murr	deputy prime minister and interior minister
Michel Iddih	minister of culture and higher education
'Ali al-Khalil	minister of expatriates
Bahij Tabbarah	minister of justice
Marwan Hamadah	minister of public health
Walid Junblatt	minister of refugees' affairs
Muhsin Dallul	minister of national defense
Nadim Salim	minister of state
Shawqi Fakhuri	minister of agriculture
As'ad Hardan	minister of labor
Faris Buwayz	minister of foreign affairs
Ilyas Hubayqah	minister of water and electricity resources
Shahi Barsumian	minister of industry and oil
'Umar Misqawi	minister of transportation
Anwar al-Khalil	minister of state for the administrative reform affairs
Nicholas Fattush	minister of tourism
Mahmud Abu-Hamdan	minister of housing and cooperatives
Hagop Demerdjian	minister of municipal and rural affairs
Fu'ad Sinyurah	minister of state for financial affairs

Rafiq al-Hariri	prime minister and finance minister
Qabalan 'Isa al-Khuri	minister of state
Joseph Mughayzil	minister of environment
'Abd-al-Rahim Murad	minister of vocational and technical education
Robert Ghanim	minister of national education, youth, and sports
Farid Makari	minister of information
Istafan al-Duwayhi	minister of social affairs
Al-Fadl Shalaq	minister of post and telecommunications
Yasin Jabir	minister of economy and trade
'Ali Harajli	minister of public works
Payiz Shukur	minister of state

Article 2: This decree shall be published and notification shall be given where necessary, and shall become effective immediately upon its issuance.

Issued by the president of the republic, Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Signed:

Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the republic

Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister

[Dated] B'abda, 25 May 1995

Government Approves New U.S., Egyptian Ambassadors

NC2505165095 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1530 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese Government today approved the appointment of Richard Jones as new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon succeeding former Ambassador Mark Hambley.

The Government also approved the appointment of the new Egyptian ambassador to Lebanon, 'Adil al-Khudari, succeeding Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar.

Hizballah Radio Sets Priorities for New Government

NC2605074495 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0530 GMT 26 May 95

["Pause at an Event" program: "The New Government and the Needed Priorities"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Rafiq al-Hariri's second government should carefully reread

events, draw and classify conclusions, set priorities, diagnose the illness, prescribe the medicine, and start work.

The first of these priorities is the liberation of the south. All our problems result from the occupation. If the state cannot send its soldiers to engage in an act of liberation, the least it can do is to honor the mujahidin on the front and apply pressure to liberate the detainees in enemy prisons. Israel is a fatal threat to all sources of freedom and justice, not only in Lebanon but in the entire region. Those who are fighting Israel are practicing political and militant realistic moderation, and it is the duty of the state to support them with everything in its power. It is not enough to issue statements and unleash political speeches. It is high time to implement the slogan that if Israel fails to pull out of Lebanese territory, all of us will turn into resistance. Israel has not withdrawn, and all of us must turn into resistance men because resistance is the only thing that can unite the Lebanese.

The second priority for the government is to solve citizens' livelihood problems and redress the wound before it bleeds so badly that it becomes impossible to cure. The living conditions are bad. There is no longer a middle class in Lebanon. The Lebanese people were stratified into two groups: The first, comprising 95 percent, is the oppressed class and the second, comprising 5 percent, is the class that led the country through its practices to the civil war in 1975. Now, no one can defuse the time bomb unless appropriate solutions to the living conditions are found. Strikes by laborers, teachers, and public and private sector employees may sweep everything away. You cannot ask a hungry man to be rational.

Such an effort by the government begins with true administrative purges that touch the really corrupt ones, and with cutting off the hands of thieves and bribe-takers. These purges should start at the top of the administrative hierarchy, not the bottom.

What is the meaning of ministers and officials burying toxic waste in valleys and mountains, poisoning water and crops and destroying life? What is the meaning of the state taking a position against citizens, firing at them and killing scores of demonstrators? And what is the meaning of this mad, weekly increase in public debt? Does this not mean that there is corruption and embezzlement? If the borrowed money was used for services projects in return for taxes or in return for services by citizens, the treasury of the Central Bank would be full. But, regrettably, the money is being spent on pleasures, recreation, travel, and banquets.

The new government should also work as a respectable and highly qualified establishment to safeguard free-

doms, respect the Constitution, and build the state of institutions, not the state of individuals. Here, we remember that last year there were threats to expel every employee who goes on strike to demand lifting the injustice done to him.

The government, in coordination with the Chamber of Deputies, can remove the language of political sectarianism from the Lebanese lexicon. This language brings only harm to the Lebanese.

These are needed and urgent missions the government must place at the top of its calculations. If the language of reconstruction and building, at the expense of citizens and their property, continues, then we will not be optimistic, even if the age of the government will not be more than six months.

'Diplomatic Source' on Syrian-Israeli Agreement

*NC2505180095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A diplomatic source at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has stated that a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track was made sometime

ago, as confirmed by the U.S. secretary of state's announcement of the resumption of talks between the two sides at the level of military experts.

The source said the recent agreement was based on the principle that security arrangements between the Syrian and Israeli sides should be parallel in regard to a demilitarized zone, watch posts, and the international forces that will deploy after the withdrawal. But what has not been agreed upon yet is the principle of equality, the source noted.

The diplomatic source said the military experts are expected to produce a kind of working paper that will be short of a declaration of principles.

Buwayz Meets With Russian Envoy Posuvalyuk

*NC2605085695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 26 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of the Russian president, arrived at Bustrus Palace [the Foreign Ministry office] a short while ago and met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Israeli Offer of 'Symbolic Withdrawal' Rejected
NC2505194195 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria today rejected an Israeli proposal to effect a symbolic withdrawal from the Golan heights to test Syria's intention. In response to a question by our correspondent Salwa Sabri today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed Damascus' insistence on Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and on even-handed security arrangements.

[Begin recording] [Sabri] Your Excellency, what is your comment on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement this morning on an Israeli offer to implement a symbolic withdrawal from the Golan?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's stance on a complete withdrawal to the 1967 borders is clear and irreversible. Regarding the security measures, we are satisfied with the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher yesterday evening on reaching an understanding on the principles of the security arrangements. Syria set forth these principles — equality and even-handedness — to help in their implementation by the military experts who will meet in Washington next month.

[Sabri] Certain news agencies view the report on the impending resumption of the military talks between Syria and Israel in Washington as indicating that Syria is giving up some of its preconditions for the resumption of these talks. Is this true?

[Al-Shar'] No, this is groundless. I heard a statement released by Jerusalem and carried by AFP. This statement is inaccurate. The statement by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin said that Syria did not give up its demands regarding equal and even-handed security arrangements and that the main preoccupation of the military experts in the near future will be carrying out these arrangements, particularly to avoid any surprise attack while we are moving from a state of war to one of peace.
[end recording]

Agreement With Israel Called 'Sound Beginning'
JN2605060495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 26 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH speaks about the understandings reached on security arrangements as part of the peace talks. The paper says this is a sound beginning and a step in the right direction toward the achievement of peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. land-for-peace initiative. Israel

has rejected these principles through three and half years of peace talks.

If Israel is serious about a just, comprehensive, and equitable peace, then it must follow up on this step with other serious steps, implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy to achieve a peace that will provide security and safety for everyone.

The paper points out that Syria has, all along, been working for a just and comprehensive peace on its well-known bases. It has done everything possible to make its efforts succeed, stemming from its desire for peace and in response to the world's desire.

AL-THAWRAH notes that, thanks to its sincere attitude toward peace and its constant, principled stance that adheres to international resolutions, Syria has succeeded in convincing the world of its just position. This has been clear in the great universal appreciation for Syria's positive role in the peace process.

The paper notes that Syria has said that for peace to be achieved, it must be just and comprehensive. It should also meet all its obligations and have equitable [mutakafi'ah], balanced [mutawazinah], and parallel [mutawaziyah] security arrangements.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The statement made yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the security arrangements on the Syrian track, along with the London radio report on this, came to reaffirm a crystal-clear fact, namely, that Syria's just demands and conditions have created a frame of reference for the upcoming meetings in Washington at the expert level. The Israelis are supposed to have been convinced of, and to have accepted, this frame of reference, as a basis for progress and for reaching the objective of peace. This should not be a tactic, maneuver, or an effort to kill time.

The paper notes that the next few days will reveal the truth about Israel's positions, its credibility, and the response of its rulers to real peace — the peace of the brave — which cannot prevail if it is not based on justice, balance, and comprehensiveness, and on ending aggression, withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories, and accepting equitable, equal, and balanced security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines.

Recent Visits by Officials, Delegations Detailed
Iraqi Kurds Meet Khaddam

JN2505203095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — A delegation from our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP] met

with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 24 May. During this brotherly meeting, our party delegation explained in detail the current conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan and the region, the tasks of the Iraqi opposition, and the latest developments.

For his part, Mr. Khaddam expressed his happiness with the delegation's visit and voiced his appreciation of our party's stand on all issues.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Khaddam asked our party delegation to convey to the brother leader of our party greetings from him and the Syrian leadership.

German Parliament Group Visits Assembly

JN2505152195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning received a German parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker (Hans Klein). Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the assembly's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee; and the German ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks centered on bilateral relations and ways to expand and strengthen them in various fields, especially in the parliamentary domain. The political conditions and the peace process were also discussed. It was stressed that the peace process should be activated and promoted in accordance with UN and international legitimate resolutions to realize just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. (Klein) praised President Hafiz al-Asad's wise policy, his excellent qualities of leadership, and his perspicacity.

Earlier today, Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received (Hans Klein). Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, and the German ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

A review was made of Syrian-German relations and the Syrian-EU relations and prospects of promoting these relations in the commercial, economic, cultural, and scientific fields. Talks also dealt with the world economic developments and their effect on the global economic conditions.

Italy's Andreotti Meets al-Asad

JN2405171095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today [1000 GMT] Julio Andreotti, member of the Italian Senate and former Italian prime minister.

They had a general discussion on the Middle East situation and the peace process.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning received Senator Andreotti. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee attended the meeting.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields in the service of joint interests, especially in the parliamentary field. Discussions also dealt with the regional situation, political developments, and the peace process. Emphasis was placed on the need for commitment to the bases and principles of the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy.

Morocco's Filali Meets al-Asad

JN2305171495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali in al-Rawdah Palace at 1145 today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Moroccan ambassador in Damascus.

Filali conveyed to President al-Asad a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The discussion addressed Arab developments.

Speaking to a correspondent for the Syrian Arab News Agency, Filali said he is happy and honored to have met President Hafiz al-Asad. He said al-Asad was great. He added: I came to Syria as an envoy of His Majesty King Hassan to invite my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, to attend a mini-summit. But, as everybody knows, the summit has been postponed.

He added: Naturally, I had the honor of meeting President al-Asad, who gave a comprehensive review of the Arab situation, based on the current realities and on what the Arabs should do in these serious circumstances. I will communicate this to King Hassan.

Filali said the situation should now be viewed differently, wishing the Arabs will meet in the near future and unify their ranks in the interest of the Arab nation.

Filali left Damascus this afternoon following a two-day visit to Syria, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Filali was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also present at the airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-

Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Danhu Dawud, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and the Moroccan ambassador in Damascus and his embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Progress Seen in Rabbani-Dostam Relations

MM2505151395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
25 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Afghanistan: Move Toward Normalizing Relations Between Presidency and Militias"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar — Well-informed Afghan sources revealed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the Uzbek militias, have achieved a leap forward in the efforts to normalize relations between them. And that this has been embodied in the Afghan presidency's release of one of Dostam's generals. The general has already arrived in Peshawar, where he is expected to be joined by five of his comrades who will be released soon.

The sources pointed out that this development falls in the framework of a deal concluded between the two sides early in the month at a meeting in Moscow between Dostam and an aide of former Defense Minister General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who is in charge of presidential forces.

Dostam's forces deny reports of a deal between the two sides, stressing the continuation of his alliance with the opposition. However, the sources said that "Russian pressures and Indian temptations have persuaded the militias' leader to coordinate with the Afghan presidency."

Mas'ud's envoy to Moscow had said that his talks in the Russian capital were aimed at securing a cease-fire between presidential forces and the militias, exchanging POW's, and opening the main roads. Both sides have allowed one another's planes to fly over the areas under their control.

'Source' Sees 'Reassertion' of Russian Presence

BK2605060595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0440 GMT 26 May 95

[Report by Herve Clerc]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, May 26 (AFP) — Holding out a carrot and a stick, Russian diplomacy is trying to re-establish its influence in Afghanistan three years after evacuating its embassy in Kabul.

"There are some very clear signs of a reassertion of the Russian presence in the region," and of Moscow being reconciled with the powers in Kabul, President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his strongman, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a diplomatic source said.

Both men are Tajiks and are considered moderates and "people you can talk to," the diplomat said.

The pieces of the jigsaw puzzle are:

— At the end of April, Adbur Rahman, the minister of aviation and a key Mas'ud man, met in Moscow with Rashid Dostam, the head of the former Uzbek communist militias who controls Mazar-e Sharif, the major city in northern Afghanistan, diplomatic staff said.

Of the half a dozen warlords who have been fighting for three years for control of Afghanistan, Dostam is clearly Moscow's favorite.

— On May 18, Alexander Obolov, a veteran Russian diplomat and Afghanistan specialist, met Najibollah Lafra'i, the Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs in Kabul. The purpose of the visit, Lafra'i said, was to pave the way for the re-opening of the Russian embassy in Kabul, which has been closed since the heaviest fighting in the summer of 1992, and which is in ruins.

— At the same time, the first "summit" of the president of neo-communist Tajikistan, Enomali Rakhmanov, and the head of the Islamic rebels, Abdollah Noori, was held in Kabul.

Among the rumors that circulate around the Afghan capital, there is one that seems stronger than the others: The Russians, or some Russian services, had offered Mas'ud a deal — they would support the Rabbani-Mas'ud government and pressure Dostam to form an alliance, in exchange for Mas'ud helping to prevent Noori's guerrillas from striking across the Tajik-Afghan border.

Concerning this rumor, Mas'ud says he has no control over the Tajik rebels, according to diplomatic sources.

Noori's guerrillas launch raids against Russian soldiers stationed along the Tajik-Afghan frontier from the provinces of Badakshan and Takhar, where the Mas'ud-Rabbani faction predominates.

At the same time, Moscow is exercising military pressure. According to a diplomatic source, Russia has beefed up its troops along the border in recent months. The figure of 25,000 Russian soldiers is mentioned in Kabul. Russian aircraft make regular bombing runs in Badakshan. A Russian bombardment of Taloqan, capital of Takhar, killed more than 50 civilians in mid-April.

But in this context, a Mas'ud-Dostam alliance, with Moscow's blessing, is strongly opposed by Mas'ud's ally in the Kabul power coalition, the Ittehad-e Eslami of Rasul Sayyaf, an Islamic extremist opposed to the west, sources say.

Another obstacle to the deal is the wall of mistrust which has been built in the three years of civil war between Dostam and Mas'ud. Dostam is an expert at shifting alliances. The last time that happened was at the beginning of 1994 when his switch from Mas'ud to Moslem fundamentalist chief Golboddin Hekmatyar nearly cost Mas'ud control of Kabul.

The contacts continue. In Moscow, Abdur Rahman and Dostam agreed on an informal truce, a diplomatic source said. For nearly a month, the guns have been silent north of the Salang pass, which crosses the Hindu Kush mountains, where the forces of Dostam and Mas'ud face each other.

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to support a crumbling communist regime. After a war which left one million Afghans and 15,000 Soviets dead and hundreds of thousands disabled, the Soviet Army withdrew in 1989.

Commentary: Russia Wants 'To Fragment' Nation
LD2205190395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to a commentary under the headline: Russians and their plan to fragment Afghanistan.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to news agency reports, Russia is thinking of mediating between the Kabul administration and the National Islamic Movement, led by General Dostam. As it known, Dr. Abdorrahman, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's political affairs aide, has twice met with Gen. Dostam and his representatives in Moscow. Relations between the National Movement and the Kabul administration deteriorated when Gen. Dostam severed his links with Rabbani on 1 January 1994 and mounted military operations against him. [passage omitted]

Moscow's taking up the role of a mediator between the Kabul administration and the National Movement is a matter for deep deliberation. Since its establishment, the Kabul administration has depended on the generous help of Moscow. Without doubt, when Moscow ceases its aid to Rabbani and Mas'ud, the Kabul administration will cease to exist soon after. Continuing their military and economic aid to the Kabul administration, the Russians have recently decided to use the Kabul administration as a means of preventing the influence of Islam in the Central Asian countries. Therefore, they apparently want to do Rabbani and Mas'ud a service in their concern over the National Movement, which controls the Salang Highway, and to reconcile them.

The Russians have committed unprecedented crimes against the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. So, fearing the establishment of such a government in Afghanistan, which will call the Russians to account, Russia continuously tries to pave the way for the fragmentation of Afghanistan. The Russians' motive behind their mediation between the Kabul administration and the National Movement is to provoke regionalism in the people of Afghanistan, to increase division and schism within the people of Afghanistan, and thus to eliminate the unity of the Afghan nation on the north and south lines. Similarly, the Russians are seeking to make the lives of the Tajik refugees in Afghanistan difficult by getting closer to the Kabul administration, and to be able to ask Rabbani and Mas'ud to forget about granting asylum to and cooperation with the Tajik refugees.

Anyway, we are of the opinion that, as the aggression and the killing of the Russians did not yield a result and the Russian soldiers left Afghanistan in complete humiliation, their present conspiracies will also fail, and, God willing, the unity of the Afghan nation will be preserved for good.

India

Rao Interviewed on Kashmir 'Setback,' Pakistan
BK2505123795 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 31 May 95 pp 64-65

["Excerpts" of an "exclusive interview" with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao by Senior Editor Shekhar Gupta at Rao's office in New Delhi; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Q. How serious a setback is Charar Sharif?**

A. It is certainly a setback. Particularly as it has come at a time when we had seen the situation on the ground changing. People had got disillusioned with militancy and they believed elections were coming. How serious this setback can be is too early to say.

Q. But surely when it became obvious that you were planning elections, some such events were expected.

A. Yes, we did expect some incidents. But our overall assessment was that despite everything, we would manage to go ahead with the elections. Actually, that might be the case even now. I am hoping that is the case even now.

Q. How do you react to the sharp reaction in Pakistan now? Benazir Bhutto has virtually called for a jihad.

A. They have been calling for a jihad every day for the past so many years. So how does that matter?

Q. It sounds a bit odd for a stronger country to always keep complaining that a lesser power is interfering.

A. That perception is not right. I always hear the comment that Pakistan is a weaker country in this equation. On the whole, we have done the right thing. For some time the Pakistanis got away with whatever they were doing. But they haven't escaped exposure.

Q. How does the burning down of Charar change the situation as it was evolving earlier?

A. People have now seen through the Pakistani game. As such, slowly but surely, the local Kashmiri youth have given up and are giving up arms. The number of surrenders in the recent months is proof of this. Insurgency has died down but terrorism still lingers on. While action against militancy is continuing, we tried to encourage the political process.

Q. If you cannot hold elections by July, won't there be a constitutional crisis?

A. There is no constitutional crisis. The Government is making every possible effort to restore normalcy in the Valley. If this takes more time, the Constitution can be amended to provide for a longer period of President's Rule. I am sure there is consensus amongst all the national parties on this issue.

Q. How crucial is it to push for the polls?

A. At the moment, there are no democratic institutions in the state at any level. The bureaucracy is answerable for everything. We want to rectify it. People from other parts of India have friendly feelings for the Kashmiris and they admire Kashmiriyat. Efforts have been made by pro-Pak fundamentalist groups to destroy Kashmiriyat in the past five years and they have been successful to some extent. It is time to reestablish the ethos of Kashmiriyat.

Q. How do you view the emergence of the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC)?

A. The Hurriyat consists of certain people with highly divergent views. They say it is an umbrella organisation of 36 parties. Most of these parties have their underground outfits, small and big, and their work has run till now because of the fear psychosis that has been created in the minds of people.

There are certain moderate elements amongst the Hurriyat who have opposed gun culture and who are in favour of a political dialogue with the Government. We are open for discussion and dialogue with any of these groups provided they give up the gun.

Q. There has been criticism in Parliament of some of the APHC's activities, particularly their meeting with the Pakistan President during his visit to India. What is your view on this?

A. Our traditional hospitality for visitors does not impose any restrictions or obligations on who they should or should not meet. Our expectation is that our hospitality will not be abused by our guests.

Q. Pakistan's classic position is that no improvement in India-Pakistan relations is possible until there is a resolution on Kashmir. India believes in tackling the less difficult issues first. In such a situation, is any movement in the relationship possible?

A. Whenever our senior officials have met and discussed subjects such as water resources, railways, cooperation against drug trafficking and smuggling, etc, this process was generally productive and beneficial. To make the entire bilateral relationship hostage to one difficult issue — Kashmir, in this case — comes close to admitting that there can be no progress in the relationship. India's approach is definitely more constructive.

Q. Will you, at some stage, think of making a unilateral gesture of conciliation or resumption of negotiations with Pakistan?

A. In October 1993, I had written to Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto suggesting a dialogue without any conditions or restrictions. We are willing to talk anywhere and at any time.

Q. How do you assess the results of the policy your Government has adopted towards Kashmir in the past four years?

A. Our basic policy towards Kashmir is clear and firm. Kashmir is an integral part and parcel of India. The accession was final. Pakistan has committed aggression and is in possession of a part of the Jammu & Kashmir state.

Jammu & Kashmir has a special status in the Indian Union. It has a constitution of its own. If there is dissatisfaction about certain provisions, it is a matter between the state and the Centre. But Pakistan has no business in our internal dispute.

Q. What is your view on Farooq Abdullah's demand for a package of sops, including wide-ranging autonomy for Kashmir, before elections can be held there?

A. I have shown my willingness to discuss the question with the state's legitimate elected representatives. I have repeated this in Parliament.

Q. There is feeling in some quarters that because of the recent electoral reverses and intra-party dissensions, your Government somehow lacks the strength and authority to deal with such a complex problem effectively. What is your view on this?

A. The Government's policy and measures to combat fissiparous tendencies in any part of the country, particularly when these are aided and abetted by external forces, are not influenced by isolated electoral reverses or even intraparty dissension. These are handled as matters of national importance.

Editorial Questions Proposed Kashmir Elections

BK2505111295 *Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi*
23 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Amid an Undeclared War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although politicians and political parties have long held that India and Pakistan are fighting an undeclared war in Kashmir, General Shankar Rai Chaudhari, chief of the Indian Army, has now admitted this fact for the first time. Gen. Rai Chaudhari mentioned Pakistan's various nefarious activities in Kashmir, but this is public knowledge. When the chief of Army Staff mentions it, however, it acquires a different meaning. It can be interpreted as our Army preparing to take action to tackle this undeclared war.

The situation in Kashmir is certainly quite grave. That is why the Army chief tried to draw the country's attention toward this pseudo war. The Indian Government, however, has informed the chief election commissioner (CEC) that the situation in Kashmir is normal and that elections can be held. Normally the CEC does not accept the government's advice at face value, but rather tries to assess the situation through independent sources. Only then does he inform the country that he has conducted an independent enquiry on the basis of which he agrees or disagrees with holding elections in a particular state.

In Bihar he extended the election period by as much as two months. In other states he kept changing the polling dates. About four years ago, the Punjab state elections were suddenly postponed just 21 hours before the declared polling time. All the preparations had been completed for peaceful voting, with the terrorist violence having duly completed its gory dance and the canvassing having been formally concluded prior to the polling. Despite this readiness, Mr. Seshan suddenly postponed the elections. The country has yet to know what transpired that forced Mr. Seshan to postpone the elections in Punjab.

The conditions in Punjab then were no better than they are in Kashmir now. Surprisingly, though, Mr. Seshan

has agreed to hold elections in Kashmir even before the expiration of presidential rule; that is, before 18 July. Nonetheless, will conditions really be conducive to holding elections, especially after our Army chief's observation that an undeclared war is being fought in Kashmir? Seshan still believes he can conduct free and fair elections in Kashmir. The Election Commission has already issued notification of the elections and asked the recognized registered political parties and candidates to choose election symbols.

Almost all the Kashmiri officials boycotted the recent meeting of election officials, however. Almost all the officials from Jammu and Laddakh attended the meeting, but there were hardly more than a couple from Kashmir. The Kashmiri officials deliberately remained aloof from the work of finalizing the voters list. Their standing plea has been that they do not want to endanger their own security or that of their families by undertaking this work. They boycotted the Sunday [21 May] meeting based on this fear. By distancing themselves from the election arrangements in Kashmir, they have confirmed their apprehension about risking their security and their lives by participating in the election process. The question is: Can the elections be free and fair if they are daunted by such fears and apprehensions? If the Kashmiri officials fear for their lives and security if they join the election arrangements, will an ordinary Kashmiri voter be able to cast his or her vote without fear? Will the voters overcome their fear to cast their votes?

The prime minister has asserted in Parliament that polling with a small turnout is better than no polling at all. Theoretically, this assertion might appear quite convincing, but will the elections be seen as fair and free if the people cannot vote without fear? Still, preparations for the elections in Kashmir are in full swing. The prime minister has emphasized the need to hold the elections in due time because, as he has said, Pakistan does not want elections to be held in Kashmir. Hence it is all the more necessary to hold the elections on schedule. Again the query is: Will the elections in Kashmir be fully democratic if the decision is made without taking the country into confidence?

Official Views Unconventional Nuclear Fabrication

95AS0320B *Madras DINAMANI in Tamil* 22 Mar 95
p 9

[News item: "Atom Bomb Without Uranium"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, March 21—Atom bomb can be fabricated without fission of uranium fuel or plutonium, said Dr. P.K. Iyengar, former chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, who played

a major role in the Indian atom bomb test conducted at Pokhran in 1974.

As the United States has been pressing India to accede to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Dr. Iyengar came out with his far-sighted view on the spread of nuclear weapons. He said:

By joining or splitting of radioactive atoms, a huge amount of heat and energy are released. With these, the atom bombs cause massive destruction.

Now new fuels have been discovered. They are capable of releasing a formidable amount of heat and energy without fission. Research laboratories in Europe and the United States have proved that it is erroneous to think that uranium or plutonium could only be produced at atomic electric power stations. These could be produced in laboratories called accelerators or smelters centers. It is not possible to prevent the spread of these technologies because that is the precise technology that is being used in the medical field and also in the production of isotopes.

Scientists have made a new discovery called atomic isomiyur which is capable of storing enormous amounts of energy. So it can be used as a fuel or as an explosive. Scientists have now come to the conclusion that there may be, still to be discovered, some elements of heavy density not easily fissionable. These materials, if used even in very small quantity, can bring about massive destruction.

It is not necessary to use either uranium or plutonium in the fabrication of hydrogen bomb.

Experiments to find out if these could be used in the production of weapons, have not yet been completed.

It is a mistake to think that nuclear proliferation could be prevented if the amount of plutonium produced by atomic electric stations could be checked and monitored under international supervision. Therefore, it is essential that these discoveries should be taken into account while reviewing the process of nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, thus said Cr. Iyengar.

Iran

Velayati Addresses Ties With Arab Countries, Iraq

JN2505180595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1713 GMT 25 May 95

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] In exclusive statements to our radio, [Iranian Foreign Minister] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said Iran is in the process of promoting its relations with the Arab world, beginning with the

neighboring states in the Gulf and ending with Egypt and the North African states.

Velayati added: We are also sensing this desire from most Arab states. He explained that this does not mean accepting all that the Arab states deem appropriate for their policy because there are points of agreement and disagreement between us. Velayati said: However, I assert to you that the points of agreement overwhelm those of disagreement. We have the same religion and history as well as common traditions and beliefs.

Regarding the results of the Iranian delegation's visit to Baghdad, the Iranian foreign minister said the visit was successful and achieved tangible progress on all levels such as addressing the issues that have been outstanding since the war, implementing all articles of Resolution 598, and achieving normalization between both Muslim neighbors.

Velayati asserted that the most important achievement of this visit was both countries' determination to terminate their frozen bilateral relations and actively push them toward normalization.

Concluding his statements, Dr. Velayati said Iran and Iraq are two important countries in the region and they should be governed by the ties of good neighborliness. They should also jointly participate in all regional and international activities. He added that expanding the cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad will not be directed against any third country.

In another development, our radio has learned that a senior Iraqi delegation will visit Tehran after one week and that the road is now paved for Velayati to visit Baghdad. However, no date has yet been set for this visit; it will be set in light of the outcome of the coming Tehran talks.

Further Views by Velayati on Iraq

LD2505182195 Tehran IRNA in English
1755 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that Iran and Iraq as "two important countries of the region should broaden their mutual relations."

He told foreign and Iranian reporters that "expansion of Tehran-Baghdad relations was not against any third country."

Velayati said Iran and Iraq should improve bilateral ties on the basis of good-neighbourliness and should participate in regional and international activities.

An Iranian delegation led by Foreign Ministry advisor, 'Ali Khorram, recently visited Baghdad, while an Iraqi

delegation is due in Tehran. Velayati said among topics discussed by the Iranian team in Baghdad was full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 including the final solution to the POW issue and the normalisation of visits between the countries. It was decided that necessary information together with documented evidence should be presented to the other side within a month on the POW issue, he disclosed.

Asked on Iran's relations with Egypt and Algeria, the foreign minister said, Tehran and Cairo enjoy relatively good relations in the economic, cultural and international scenes, which are "improving by the day." He said some Algerian officials have accused Iran of interfering in that country's affairs, while the fact is, Islamic Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country especially Algeria. However, he stressed that Iran "strongly objects" to the events in against that country's Muslims. [sentence as received]

"We are of the opinion that internal developments in Algeria indicate the inability of that country's government vis-a-vis the people. The Algerian Government should give freedom to the people.

"This is our viewpoint, and it does not mean interference in Algerian affairs," he added.

Questioned on the Bosnian issue, the Iranian foreign minister saw light on the darkened Balkans horizon following the trilateral talks involving Tehran, Athens and Sarajevo. Velayati criticized the U.N. in this regard and said: "In fact, the U.N. has shown weakness towards the Bosnian issue and has not adequately discharged its duty of defending the Bosnian people."

Velayati, Greek Counterpart Discuss Bosnia

LD2205145495 Tehran IRNA in English
1303 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, May 22, IRNA — A joint Greek-Iranian initiative to bring peace to war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) is winning more and more support both from Europe and the Islamic world.

"As you can see, European as well as Islamic countries are cooperating for this common aim to find a permanent and just solution in a very sensitive region," Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias told reporters after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday.

Expressing similar views, Velayati said: "What we have done has been warmly welcomed by the Muslim countries and also European countries."

The Iranian foreign minister made a brief stopover in Athens Sunday afternoon enroute to Tehran to

brief papoulias on the outcome of the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia held in Morocco Thursday.

The OIC Contact Group includes, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Senegal, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and B-H.

On his part, Papoulias informed Velayati of his recent talks with the Austrian leadership linked with the Bosnian crisis. On Thursday, during talks in Vienna, Papoulias proposed a tripartite meeting between Greece, Austria and Hungary for bolstering the peace-process in B-H.

"There are continuous contacts with the foreign minister of Iran and our efforts are continuing to solve this big tragedy," Papoulias told the press after the 45-minute meeting held at the Greek foreign ministry in central Athens.

"The sensitivity of the question of Bosnia is very high. This is our task to help the people of Bosnia and the people of the Balkans to live in peace," said Velayati.

It was the second meeting between the two ministers within five days. Velayati also made a brief stopover in Athens enroute to Morocco Wednesday to discuss the Bosnian crisis with Papoulias.

"Greece and Iran have been very active in this connection since few months. Now we are happy to see that even some small positive steps have been taken," stressed Velayati.

Papoulias and Velayati and their Bosnian counterpart irfan Ljubijankic have held two tripartite meetings, in March in Athens and in April in Tehran, aimed at finding ways to bring peace to B-H.

Greece, a EU member, is in contact both with Brussels and Belgrade to brief them on the Greek-Iranian peace initiative.

Velayati said Tehran is in close contact with the Bosnian government.

"We do hope that in the near future we will take some more positive steps," Velayati added.

An Iranian diplomatic source told IRNA that efforts are underway to include the Serbian side in the future tripartite meetings. Greeks maintain close historical links with their Orthodox co-religionists Serbs.

Velayati, Bosnian Official Review Developments

LD2305142595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Irfan Ljubijankic, minister of foreign affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, had a telephone conversation this morning in which they discussed Bosnia-Herzegovina's latest developments.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Ljubijankic expressed appreciation for the active presence of our country at the Islamic countries' Contact Group session which was recently held in Rabat. He referred to the results of the Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Greece tripartite session and called for the continuation of our country's efforts and assistance toward the Bosnian people and government.

Mr. Velayati briefed his Bosnian counterpart on the outcome of his latest round of talks with Mr. Papoulias, Greek foreign affairs minister. He added: Fortunately, the efforts which were expended resulted in Belgrade seriously studying the issue of Bosnian recognition which, in this situation, may lead to positive results relating to the resolution of the Balkan issue.

Vice President Habibi Departs for Zagreb

LD2505180995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before leaving Tehran for Zagreb today, Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi said that the recent situation faced by the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the expansion of bilateral relations are the most important issues to be discussed with Croatian officials.

[Begin Habibi recording] Besides talking with Croatians on mutual cooperation, we intend to use the the tripartite talks [among Iran, Croatia, and Bosnia] to discuss relations among the three countries, as well as the implementation of a process that could lead to peace in the region and free the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia from their present difficulties. [end recording]

Mr. Habibi also referred to the Iranian stance on the present situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially the increase in barbaric attacks on the defenseless people of Sarajevo and the use of chemical weapons. He said that the present situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is unacceptable and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is surprised that such Serbian attacks and crimes are taking place despite the United Nations.

[Begin Habibi recording] Unfortunately, there has been no proper reaction in order to end the attacks and

restrain the Serbs. The situation is getting worse every day, both in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. We are surprised that the UN officials have taken an inactive stance. [end recording]

Iran believes that the threat to withdraw some countries' peacekeeping forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina has added to the difficulties faced by the people of this country and that it is not possible to defend the reaction of the United Nations and the great powers. [passage omitted]

Ministry Assails Serb Attacks on Sarajevo

LD2605094495 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday [26 May] condemned Serbs attacks on Sarajevo and defenseless people of the city over the past couple of days specially those on Thursday.

The statement called on the international circles to take speedy and decisive measures to save lives of the innocent people who have been under the siege for more than three years.

Regretting such attacks, the statement said situation in Sarajevo was increasingly deteriorating several weeks after a halt to the shipment of foodstuff and medicine to the city due to the closure of its airport.

Meanwhile, it added, extensive shelling over the past few days has exerted a double pressure on the inhabitants of Sarajevo.

Unfortunately, the United Nations and its forces who have been dispatched to the area for peace keeping purposes, are indifferently watching massacre of people in Sarajevo without taking the least action to defend the civilians, read the statement.

It called on influential countries of the region to exert utmost efforts to put an end to the present deplorable situation and pave the way for the peace talks to be held.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of its efforts to solve crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, calls on Muslim countries, and Secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Countries [as received], to take more active steps than the past to put an end to such "inhumane aggression" and tyranny against Bosnian people in order to restore a just peace to the republic.

Rafsanjani: Attack on Serb Positions 'Deceitful'

LD2605101795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Iran, delivered the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran today. [passage omitted]

About the situation in Bosnia and the NATO performance, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: NATO is saying that it has taken action to stop the Serb attacks, but we are witnessing that the Serbs continue their aggression. It seems that the NATO claim and its measures are deceitful and far from the truth, because it is very easy for NATO to confront the Serbs.

Radio Views NATO Air Raids, 'Bosnian Crisis'

LD2605130595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, and the United Nations have confirmed the air strikes of their bomber jets on Serb positions yesterday, 25 May. The air raids were conducted following the expiration of the UN deadlines to the Serbs for transferring their heavy weapons to the UN-controlled regions. NATO authorities, in the meantime, remarked that in the attacks two Serb munition dumps in nearby Pale city, the capital of the rebel Serbian forces, had been strafed.

The United Nations' Security Council had issued the order of air-raiding Serb fortifications at a time when Serb offensives against UN positions had intensified. These assaults had brought about some new plans for the reconsideration of the UN peacekeeping troops in the region. It had even put forward some proposals for the withdrawal of the UN forces from Bosnia.

The pull out of the UN soldiers from Bosnia, however, will be tantamount to the expansion, as well as escalation of that war-torn country's crisis, a matter which puts into serious jeopardy other European states. In the opinion of a great many analysts of the Balkan dilemma, the European countries' decision for launching air strikes against Serb positions is basically not intended for terminating Serb crimes and brutalities, but rather it is designed for containing the crisis and checking its further spread to the rest of the Balkan region.

When the Serb aggressors had even intensely attacked the so-called secure regions announced by the UN, the European governments influential in the Bosnian crisis and the UN authorities, apart from a number of showy

measures, did not take any serious steps to put an end to the genocide of Muslims by the Serbs. But when the security of the UN forces whose majority was composed by soldiers of European governments was endangered, discussions were brought up as to the withdrawal of the UN forces and the change of their mission in Bosnia, and measures were adopted for the maintenance of their security.

NATO strikes were also arranged for the punishment of Bosnian Serbs so that they will not violate the limits designated by European governments. The actions of influential European governments during the Bosnian crisis demonstrated that these governments were not intending to put an end to the crimes and aggressions of the Serbs, but were rather intending to maintain the existing situation.

In other words, these governments, until they are not certain that the Muslims cannot obtain their rights, are willing to maintain their silence concerning the anti-human crimes of the Serbs and implement the diplomacy of playing with time concerning this crisis; a policy in which any move toward constructive measures is adopted to put an end to this war and all measures are implemented in the form of casual tactics.

'Latest Military Equipment' Used in Maneuvers

LD2405190795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The concluding phase of a combined maneuver by the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] was conducted today. The forces participating in the maneuver captured the hypothetical enemy's positions.

On the last day of the combined maneuver, Air Force fighters attacked specific targets deep inside the maneuver grounds, dozens of the Army Aviation [Hava Niruz] helicopters opened fire on the positions and fortified posts of the hypothetical enemy and displayed part of their operational capability.

Mr. Foruzandeh, minister of defense and armed forces logistics, Brigadier General Dadbin, commander of the army's ground forces, and a number of IRGC and army commanders as well as families of martyrs were present at the ceremony.

All objectives of the maneuver were achieved. Among the characteristics of the Fajr-17 maneuver was the use of the latest military equipment including the Zolfaqr tank, the implementation of electronic and anti-electronic warfare [elektroniky va zedd-e elektroniky] and the use of datalink system [last two words in

English] of receiving video and audio information in the shortest possible time. [Video shows aerial shots of the general area of the maneuver; military helicopters transporting equipment; tanks, including the Iranian-manufactured Zolfaqr tank]

Guidance Ministry Official on Revised Press Law
NC2505094195 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian
 4 May 95 p 8

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Ash'ari, deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance for press and propaganda affairs, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [HAMSHAHRI] Do you intend to place the revision of the Press Law at the disposal of reporters before it is handed to the Majles?

[Ash'ari] The ambiguities that existed in the Press Law led to a revision which was compiled on the basis of expert opinion and has been handed to the Majles Guidance Commission. I think that it is a good idea to inform the public of the proposals that have been made in this revision.

[HAMSHAHRI] What are the strong points in the revised law?

[Ash'ari] We considered several of the sections important. One was on applications for publications which we think is very important, since an applicant and the chief editor of a publication should meet certain specifications because a publication has a cultural mission, and the chief editor should believe in the Constitution and in the system. The second point is that he should be an expert in journalism. The current law does not list these capabilities as necessary elements in an applicant.

Moreover, we thought that the terminology used for some of the legal points was wrong and had to be corrected. For example, as far as the division of the publications is concerned, the law states that a publication can be of a news, political, or cultural nature, while a political publication can also be a news publication.

Another article that we want the esteemed Majles to tend to more carefully is on the authorities of the Supervisory Council [SC]. Of course, in our opinion the current law is not at all vague on the fact that the SC has been given a free hand in supervising publications, in issuing permits, and in taking punitive measures to cancel permits. But since some of our friends in the press do not assess the law in the same way, the Majles should emphasize more clearly what the authorities of the SC are. Therefore, we proposed that clearer terms be used where mention is made of the SC's authorities.

The other issue concerns the correspondents. Our opinion was that a correspondent needs more immunities in his job to help him in preparing and publishing news. And we also think that the officials too should provide correspondents with more information.

[HAMSHAHRI] If a publication commits an offense, will the first step that the SC takes be an administrative or a legal closure of the publication?

[Ash'ari] The SC may conclude that the permit of a publication must be canceled after it has carried out the necessary examinations and assessments. On the whole, the SC can do two things. It can either prevent publication without canceling the permit, or it can permanently cancel a permit.

[HAMSHAHRI] Doesn't preventing publication in the administrative sense mean that the SC can, after giving the necessary explanations, prevent publication without canceling the permit and take the publication to court so that the cancellation of the permit can be legally clarified in court?

[Ash'ari] No, not necessarily. When the SC cancels a permit, it does not send the case to court. The law too stresses that the SC can—on its own or on orders from the Guidance Ministry—study a publication's offenses and, "if necessary," send to the case to court for further investigation.

[HAMSHAHRI] Legally speaking, doesn't "investigation" also mean the cancellation of a permit?

[Ash'ari] From what we have gleaned from the law, this "investigation" can be one of the many phases that lead to the cancellation of a permit.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some experts in legal affairs believe that press offenses have not been clearly defined in the law. They consider one of the reasons for this to be the failure to find a legal procedure in the press courts because a long time is needed to formulate a legal procedure, while it is only 10 years that our Press Law has been approved and we have not yet acquired the necessary legal experience in this field. Anyway, do you think that these offenses are clearly defined in the law?

[Ash'ari] A series of offenses fall under the category of general offenses which are also listed in our judiciary laws. But the instances which the Press Law specifically mentions—such as, for example, in Article 27—whenever a source of emulation is insulted, the permit of a publication is canceled and this offense is tried in court as a crime. Another instance is the one on casting aspersions on someone's reputation. All these are cases that are investigated by the court, unless it is proposed

that in addition to the references to such offenses in law, other examples of press offenses are codified in other places, in which case I think that there is no need for the Majles in this.

[HAMSHAHRI] One of the reasons for the confrontation with the press is in the interests of the public and of national security. What are the definitions of these words in your opinion?

[Ash'ari] There are a series of terms like freedom, national unity, and national security that are used but for which we lack a clear definition. And one of our major jobs is to define such terms.

The necessary research work to this effect is carried out and after the necessary preparations, we present the outcome of this research in the form of seminars for commentators. But what do terms like the threatening of national security mean? I may not be able to cite an example for you.

[HAMSHAHRI] However, such terms are used when the permits of most publications are canceled.

[Ash'ari] Yes, it is true that the SC's decision should definitely be based on one of the articles of the law. But we may use such terms when an issue is discussed in detail in articles.

[HAMSHAHRI] Don't you think that this should be much clearer as far as publications are concerned so that we can move closer to the rule of law?

[Ash'ari] In the press department of the ministry we are working toward the rule of law. And wherever we see a weak point in the law, the Majles is asked to correct it. But when a publication harms the topic of leadership in one way or another, we can no longer call this a matter of taste because the law should have been precisely followed and it was. Therefore, when we comment on the impact that the application of the law has, we are stating our own assessment.

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Ash'ari, in your opinion, is it better to increase the power of the courts or of the SC in dealing with press offenses?

[Ash'ari] I have not given serious thought to this. This is a topic that should be discussed on its own.

[HAMSHAHRI] This topic is important because it seems that if the Supervisory Council's authorities are increased, any group that is in power can use the SC to its own benefit. But if we grant the judiciary more authorities, we will be creating a legal procedure which will not only benefit those who are in power but, first and foremost, the public.

[Ash'ari] In the SC, it is not just one person who makes the decisions. There are five people who are Majles deputies, high-ranking judges, and press representatives. If you place all these people next to each other, you will see that they can compare to a court.

[HAMSHAHRI] But in the Constitution, we have a division of power and such issues fall under the authorities of the judiciary. Therefore, if the SC itself commits a mistake—as was stated by Mr. Mirsalim [vice president]—a complaint can be filed to the supreme court.

[Ash'ari] I don't think that the points you have made apply here. Assuming that both can operate equally well—that is, they will make a similar decision on a given offense. Which one is best? I think that we should examine in depth whether a court can deal with some offenses and see if there are certain areas where the court cannot enter, and who should.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some people believe that approving the credentials of people to publish a magazine restricts freedom. What do you think?

[Ash'ari] When you want to hire someone for a job, you ask for a curriculum vitae, which actually lists the capabilities of that person to perform a job. And no one argues that you are restricting freedom by doing this.

[HAMSHAHRI] But as far as the registration of commercial companies is concerned, anyone can register a company and become an employer without his credentials being reviewed.

[Ash'ari] No, my point is something else. I say that whoever is looking for a job in the private or public sectors has to meet some requirements. For example, in the public sector there are personnel officers who do this, and employers do this in the private sector.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some observers believe that it is better to issue permits without putting forth any conditions, but also to confront any offense very seriously.

[Ash'ari] I think that instead of having to cancel the permit of a publication each time and creating lots of friction and threatening the economic life of the people, it is better for us to prevent such incidents from the very beginning by not issuing a permit at all, and not setting any limitations on those who are competent either.

Currently we issue about 100 permits a year. Therefore, the existence of an SC at this juncture is necessary in order to prevent any press offenses.

[HAMSHAHRI] There have been instances when the Special Clerical Court [SCC] has directly intervened and prevented a publication from appearing on the

newsstands, while the Guidance Ministry may have agreed that the publication can continue to be published. In your opinion, is the closure of a publication by the SCC not contrary to the Press Law?

[Ash'ari] Two basic points should be noted. The first is that the extent of the authorities, and the decisions that can be made in the court, is different from those of the law. In order to decide whether a publication should be permanently closed or its permit canceled, the SC can only investigate the offenses of the said publication. In other words, if a publication violates the Press Law, the Supervisory Council can investigate, while the court looks into the offenses that have been committed.

[HAMSHAHRI] Which court?

[Ash'ari] The [Press] Law uses the general term. It does not specify if it is a special court or any other court. But since the general term is used, they mean the court that the law has vested authorities in. However, the important point is that when the SCC wants to investigate a press offense, it has to be in the presence of a jury. In relation to this, the seizure of the two publications—RAH-E MOJAHED and PAYAM-E HAJAR—created the most problems. We recently heard that PAYAM-E HAJAR had been released; and they came here [to the ministry] yesterday to apply for a newsstand.

As far as these two publications are concerned, the prosecutor can file a complaint, and if a press offense has been committed, the chief editor can be summoned outside the channels that go through the SC and his publication closed can be down.

[HAMSHAHRI] But apparently this wasn't the case with these two publications. Apparently, the Guidance Ministry has agreed that they continue publication, while the SCC has prevented their publication.

[Ash'ari] Generally speaking, I can tell you that each court can operate according to the authorities vested in it. I don't know offhand what the authorities of the SCC are. However, I am stating this because courts in general can deal with press offenses.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some legal experts believe that the SCC can only deal with the chief editor of a publication because of his policy, but it can't close the publication down.

[Ash'ari] No, the law has granted the court the authority to close down a publication if it is deemed expedient.

[HAMSHAHRI] Even the SCC?

[Ash'ari] We should see what the authorities of that court are. I don't know offhand.

[HAMSHAHRI] Let us talk about the [press] festival. Many of the people who sent materials and participated in the festival complain about why the names of the judges and of the committee heads and members, who will be looking at this material, are published only after the material has been sent in. If the names had been published beforehand, they say, they would possibly have decided not to send their material at all because most of the people on the committees have nothing to do with journalism.

[Ash'ari] It is better for the complaints to be sent to the festival's offices so that they can be considered and put to use when planning next year's festival. All my friends believe that this year's festival was much better than last year's festival because all the criticisms were taken into consideration and efforts were made to improve the festival.

Government Companies Conceal Figures From Majles

95LA02141 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Mar 95
p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—In the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget Bill, there are deviations to be seen from the Second Five-Year Plan Law. If these are not resolved, the deviations in the budget bills in future years will be greater.

'Ali Kamyar, deputy from Urmia and chief of the Accounting Court Commission, gave an interview to our correspondent in which he made this announcement. He said: The first point is that in violation of the Second Five-Year Plan Law, the budget for the government companies has not been submitted separately to the Majles. Despite the fact that Note 4 of the Second Five-Year Plan Law clearly states that the approval of the budget for the Accounting Court must be done as provided for in the commission, this point has not been taken into account in the Budget Bill.

He criticized the government companies for being recalcitrant about submitting their budget figures to the Majles. He said: In delaying and not submitting their budgets, these companies want to get a free hand and absolute control over their investments and pricing in order to increase prices. They want to act according to their own wishes.

The chief of the Accounting Court Commission added: The Majles is insisting on including the financial figures of the government companies in the Budget Bill in order to make policy to control the fluctuations in revenues, expenditures, and investments, in view of the nation's economic situation.

Distribution of Basic Goods in Sepah Stores

95LA0214G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Feb 95
p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—The distribution of basic goods at the approved rate will begin next week in the Sepah Consumer Cooperative stores.

Engineer Ja'far Khiabani, executive director of the Sepah Consumer Cooperative Company, announced this in an interview with our correspondent. He added: The distribution of one liter containers of liquid vegetable oil at 2,170 rials [R] and Pakistani rice at R1,200 per kilogram will continue in all Sepah Consumer Cooperative stores.

He also added: Meat is being sold at the approved price in all of this company's stores.

Sugar Coupons for Urban, Rural Areas Announced

95LA0214D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Mar 95
p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, IRNA—The Office of Executive Affairs for the Ministry of Commerce Economic Staff announced: Urban coupon issue 71 of the Stage 9 series of coupons for extra rations of sugar cubes and sugar has been provided, giving each person 1,200 grams [g] at 1,200 rials [R] per coupon, or R1,000 per kilogram [kg].

Likewise rural coupon issue 636 in the Stage 10 series of coupons has been provided for extra rations of sugar cubes and sugar, allowing 1,200 g per person at R1,200 per coupon, or R1,000 per kg.

Pakistan

U.S. Move on Pressler Law Modifications Viewed

Seen as 'Watershed' in Relations

BK2505143395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1400 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has described the process of modifications in the Pressler law as a watershed to place relations with the United States on an even keel and said it would continue to work for removing remaining inequitable restrictions of the legislation. This has been stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while referring to the passage of the proposed amendment by the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate and a resolution by Congress Committee on International Relations. He said this is the first step toward doing away with this country-specific law.

Answering a question, the spokesman said Pak-U.S. Consultative Group meeting would deal with the outstanding issues in the area of military cooperation. The spokesman said the resolution calls for initiation of regional peace process by the U.S. President, which must include resolution of existing territorial disputes, specifically the Kashmir problem and the issue of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. He said this was an acceptance of Pakistan's position that the nuclear issue must be addressed in the regional context. The spokesman said the resolution also calls upon the U.S. Administration to refund the money paid by Pakistan through the sale of equipment.

Said 'Tremendous Diplomatic Success'

BK2505155695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Izhar Amrohi, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Parliamentary Group's secretary and spokesman, has said that the modifications in the Pressler Amendment proposed by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee represent a tremendous diplomatic success, for which Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto deserves praise. In a statement in Islamabad today, he rejected the opposition leader's statement which he had made at the Islamabad airport. He said the PPP government has played a remarkable role in highlighting the Kashmir problem all over the world.

Minister Views Foreign Policy, U.S., Kashmir

BK2405163695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Senate session was prorogued this evening after the adoption of a motion of thanks for the president's address to the joint session of parliament on 14 November last year.

Earlier, concluding the debate on the president's address, Professor N.D. Khan, federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, said that Pakistan has now been put on the path of progress and its prestige enhanced in the comity of nations due to comprehensive economic programs and effective foreign policy of the present government. He said as a result of the government's wholehearted efforts, memorandums of understanding worth \$20 billion have been signed for investment in Pakistan.

On Pakistan's relations with the United States, the federal minister said the present government is pursuing the same objectives the former government failed to achieve. He said Pakistan enjoys close relations with neighboring countries like China and Iran as well as the Islamic countries.

On the Kashmir issue, he said that despite the opposition's noncooperation, the government has been successful in effectively projecting the issue at the international level and increasing the pressure on India. This policy has a salutary effect on the indigenous freedom movement in occupied Kashmir.

He denied that Pakistan has compromised its nuclear policy, dispelling this as false and unfounded propaganda. He categorically stated that Pakistan has the full right to pursue its nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

On the situation in Karachi, the federal law minister said the Pakistani people's policy is to arrive at a conciliatory formula to bridge the artificial urban-rural divide. He reinvented the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] to enter a dialogue to solve the issue peacefully.

Earlier, Tariq Chaudhury of the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, Syed Fazle Agha of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, Hafez Taj Muhammad of the Jamait-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan-Fazlur Rahman Group, Sardar Yaqub Khan Nassir of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, and Aftab Ahmed Sheikh of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement participated in the debate.

The law and parliamentary affairs minister assured the opposition that the government has no intention of carrying out reprisals against the opposition. He was replying to comments made by the MQM's Aftab Ahmed Sheikh, who was brought to the house to participate in the session. Opposition leader [in the Senate] Raja Mohammad Zaffarul Haq, welcoming Aftab Ahmed Sheikh to the house, expressed satisfaction that the atmosphere in the house today was much better.

Nuclear Program Said 'Intact' Despite Pressure

*BK2505130595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1004 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP) — Pakistan is doing nothing to slow or halt its controversial nuclear programme, the country's senior nuclear scientist said in an interview released Thursday [24 May].

Abdul Qadeer Khan told The Frontier Post daily that successive governments had kept the programme intact and rigidly protected despite international pressure over suspicions that Pakistan is developing nuclear weapons.

"It is going on as it was," Khan was quoted as saying, dismissing allegations of the programme's capping or rollback as a political game by national politicians.

Khan said all Pakistani leaders had been staunchly committed to the programme, launched after India exploded a nuclear device in 1974. Khan, considered

to be the brain behind the programme, said "none of them has shown any flexibility."

Despite the widely-held belief that Pakistan has nuclear bombs or the ability to assemble the same quickly, Khan stressed that the country's nuclear effort was geared entirely to peaceful purposes.

Pakistan has resisted western pressure to freeze its nuclear development, including an embargo on economic and military assistance imposed by the United States in 1990.

The aid ban was applied under the Pressler Amendment, a US anti-proliferation law invoked after then-president George Bush failed to assure Congress that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons.

Islamabad now believes the United States is coming round to its view that the ban has failed to achieve its objective and that a regional solution to the nuclear issue in South Asia be pursued.

A current move in the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee to ease the Pressler sanctions to permit resumption of limited assistance has been welcomed here as a first step toward repairing the damage.

A Foreign Office spokesman, quoted by official Associated Press of Pakistan, said late Wednesday it was a "step" toward "erosion" of the Pressler law.

"We hope there will be further developments on this line," the spokesman said.

Sri Lanka

Army Imposes 'Indefinite Night Curfew' in North

*BK2505111795 Hong Kong AFP in English
1014 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 25 (AFP) — Security forces clamped an indefinite night curfew in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday [25 May] and advised people not to use a key highway near the main military complex in the region, officials said.

The dusk-to-dawn curfew will go into effect in seven villages located near the Palaly army and airforce complex in the Jaffna peninsula from Thursday, said the top civil administrator in Jaffna, K. Ponnambalam.

The military move came following heavy shelling of the area after the army launched a limited offensive to capture a 10 square kilometer area from the Tamil Tiger guerrillas last week.

Ponnambalam said he was told to inform local residents about the curfew in the villages of Kirudavil, Vasavilan.

Puttur West. Thondamanaru. Iddaikadu. Idduppidi and Atchchuveli.

"I have already informed the village officials and I will advertise in local papers tomorrow," Ponnambalam said.

He said the main road leading from the island's northernmost point of Point Pedro and the Jaffna town will be closed to traffic following the new restrictions as the road was close to an army defence line.

Defence sources said the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were believed to have anti-aircraft gunners in the area of the seven villages and a military offensive was inevitable in the region.

Rebels Launch 'Major Attack' on Northeast Camp
BK2605032195 Hong Kong AFP in English
0257 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, May 26 (AFP) - Tamil Tiger guerrillas launched a major attack against an army camp in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday [26 May], inflicting heavy casualties on the military, defence sources said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed or wounded a large number of soldiers during the pre-dawn assault against the Kallarawa military camp in the Trincomalee district, the sources said.

No details were immediately available, but defence sources said that most of the soldiers in the small detachment were incapacitated by the LTTE gunmen who attacked in strength.

Last week, the LTTE ambushed an army patrol and killed 13 soldiers in the same area.

The latest LTTE attack came as the military clamped an indefinite night curfew at seven villages in the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

'Maximum Alert' Imposed After Northeast Slayings
BK2605082695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0817 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, May 26 (AFP) — Security forces were placed on maximum alert in the Sri Lankan capital following the Tamil rebel slaying of a top Buddhist monk and the massacre of 42 people in the northeast on Friday [26 May], officials said.

Troops have been ordered to be on the look-out for "mischief-makers" who may attempt to create communal tension following the assassination of Buddhist priest, Kithalagama Seelalankara near his temple in the east, officials said.

Security was strengthened in and outside parliament here while vehicles entering the capital were subjected to thorough searches by security forces manning checkpoints and roadblocks, officials said.

Gunmen of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been blamed for the killing of Seelalankara, who was a vocal critic of the LTTE and head of the Buddhist clergy in the embattled east.

LTTE guerrillas also slaughtered at least 42 men, women and children at a village in northeastern Trincomalee district Friday in continuing violence in the region which began with the collapse of a three-month old truce on April 19.

Following the LTTE's decision to renew its separatist campaign last month, security in the capital has been intensified amid fears of LTTE bomb strikes.

Security has already been tightened at the main airport, harbour and railway station here.

The main opposition United National Party (UNP) expressed shock at the latest attacks and appealed for calm.

In April the UNP had warned that LTTE attacks on Buddhist monks could trigger a backlash by majority Sinhalese against minority Tamils in the rest of the country.

Most Sinhalese follow the Buddhist faith while a majority of Tamils are Hindus.

The LTTE killings of 13 Sinhalese soldiers in the north in 1983 sparked ethnic riots in the capital, leaving some 400, mostly Tamils, dead. The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for the two million Tamils.

More than 30,000 have died in the protracted ethnic conflict.

Rebel Leader Interviewed on Breaking Peace Talks
BK2505121695 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English
31 May 95 p 153

["Excerpts" of interview with LTTE "supremo" Vellupillai Pirabhakaran by BBC correspondent Anandhi Surya Prakasan at a camp in Jaffna; date not given — translated from Tamil]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Q. Why did you decide to withdraw from the peace negotiations at a time when there was hope that peace will be restored in the north?

A. We made this painful decision at a time when our people had lost all hope. In the beginning, we

entertained the hope that the Tamil national question would be resolved through political negotiations.

The Tamil people have been subjected to enormous suffering as a consequence of the economic embargo, fishing bans and the blockade on traffic imposed by the previous government. We requested nothing other than the removal of these bans. Instead of viewing these issues as problems of the Tamil people, the Government took them as specific demands of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Furthermore, we were told that any attempt to resolve them would spark off military repercussions. We pointed out that the continuation of the peace negotiations would serve no purpose if the problems of our people were not resolved. The Government assured us that it would remove the bans. We extended our deadline by three weeks. But the Government delayed the implementation of its decisions. It is because of this that we and our people have lost faith in Chandrika's Government.

Q. Why did you decide to discontinue the peace negotiations even though President Kumaratunga lifted the economic embargo and offered several concessions?

A. Giving pledges and implementing those pledges are two different things. It is true that President Chandrika gave us pledges. But she has not taken constructive measures to implement them.

Q. Shouldn't you have been a bit patient since the delay could have been caused by administrative hurdles?

A. We reached the brink of tolerance. The Government dragged its feet for more than six months. If there was a genuine will, the Government would have lifted the

bans and proceeded with the implementation within 24 hours.

Q. What do you feel about the decision to reimpose these bans?

A. It has made one thing very clear: as far as the Tamil issue is concerned, there is no fundamental difference between the present Government and the UNP [United National Party] regime.

Q. Several foreign governments have condemned you for terminating the peace negotiations.

A. We are fully aware that the international community is genuinely concerned about the Tamil issue and wants a political settlement. Some foreign countries have chosen to condemn the LTTE on the basis of the one-sided story provided by the Government before studying the issue in depth.

Q. Chandrika has made it clear that she is determined to pursue the peace process with or without the cooperation of the LTTE.

A. If it is practicable to achieve peace without the cooperation of the LTTE, let her continue her effort.

Q. The International Secretariat of the LTTE in London issued a statement recently that the Tigers have not closed the doors for peace. What steps do you expect the Government to take?

A. Our doors for peace are still open. We are dissatisfied and disillusioned with the Government approach but we haven't lost hope. If the Government makes favourable decisions on the issues we raised, we will be prepared to cease all hostilities and return to the peace process.

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